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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT
Technology

VOLUME XXIX

JANUARY, 1939

NUMBER 1

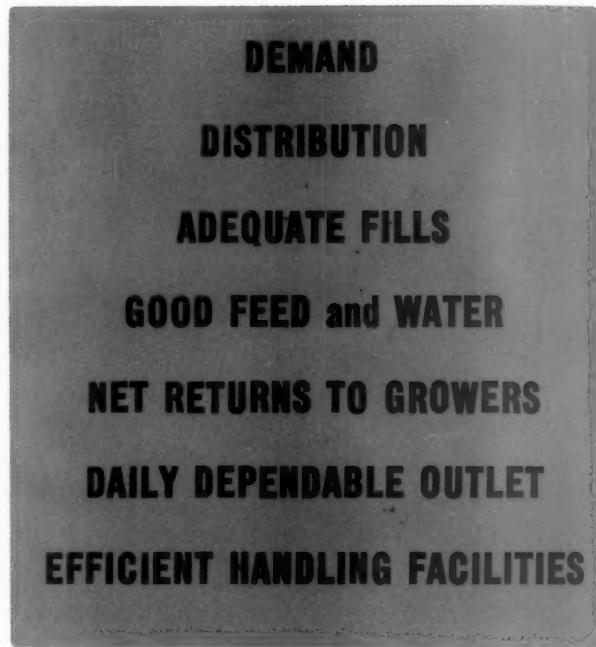
29



74th Annual Convention
National Wool Growers Association
San Angelo, Texas
January 24-25, 1939

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4-H CLUB BOY RUNS MAN-SIZE FARM



TO UTAH FARMERS

Everywhere I go I see how 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America activities are training boys and girls for successful farming. Teaching them the value of quality production—and good citizenship. Safeway encourages these farm youth organizations. And recently I talked with a young Oregon organization. And recently I talked with a young Oregon go-getter who proves how worth-while this work is. He okayed this interview for me just the way you read it here.

Since his father passed on last year, 18-year-old Alvin Cheyne has handled the family's 220-acre ranch helped only by his mother. Neighbor folks tell me he's doing a man's work and doing it well. Alvin joined the Klamath County 4-H Club when he was 12. I've snapped him here with the fine Aberdeen Angus which was his entry in the 1938 Klamath Falls Junior Livestock Show. Alvin told me—"Safeway has been swell to us 4-H and F. F. A. kids. Our Shows wouldn't have been as successful if it hadn't been for Safeway's support."

—YOUR SAFEWAY FARM REPORTER

ALVIN CHEYNE, a farm boy born and raised, was made ready for big responsibility young by 4-H Club work. Just turned 12 he raised a registered Hereford heifer and entered it in the County Fair.

"My next two 4-H years I did Handicraft work—then went back to cattle," Alvin told me. "At the first Klamath County Junior Livestock and Baby Beef Show, in 1936, I entered a Shorthorn and an Aberdeen Angus. They placed first and third, showed me a nice premium.

"At the 1937 Show a Shorthorn which cost me \$55 to raise placed first in his class. When Safeway bid him in at 23¢ a pound I cleared \$139.81. Safeway also took my Angus, which got a third, at 19¢ a pound. And another entry of mine, a Hereford that placed fifth, brought a good premium.

"In San Francisco where I attended the last Junior Interstate Show, I noticed Safeway bought heavily. [Note: 179 animals—27% of the gross cattle sales, 21% of the lamb sales.] And in both '36 and '37 Safeway was the largest purchaser at our Klamath Falls Junior Livestock Show. In '37, for instance, 38% of the gross cattle sales were made to Safeway.

"Of course, the Safeway people are good friends to us farmers in more ways than one. I know they move food more directly. Mother's records prove how that benefits us. Safeway pays the market price or more for everything we sell them—and also saves us money at the store."

TECHNOLOGY
THE SAFEWAY FARM REPORTER

Please mention THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER when writing to

990292



Mrs. Cheyne is proud of the way her son, Alvin, has taken hold of the ranch. Herself a capable manager, she told me—"Safeway takes some of our apples, strawberries, potatoes, eggs and other things. Always they insist on quality and pay the market price or more to get it."

advertisers.

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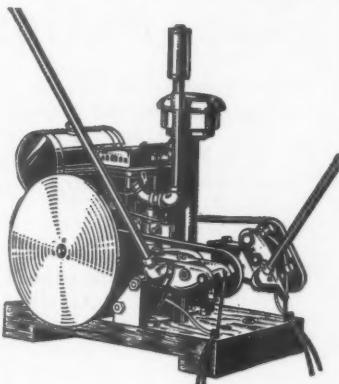
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A. E. Lawson.....	Yakima, Washington
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National Wool Growers Association**

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Irene Young, *Assistant Editor*

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the *National Wool Grower*. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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Editorial Comment on Sheep and Wool Affairs

The Tariff Situation

NOTHING has happened during the past month to change or clarify the feeling of apprehension caused by the terms of the trade agreement with the United Kingdom, and which brought wool trading almost to a standstill.

Anticipating announcement of lowered duties that was made on November 17, several American firms had taken options in Europe on large weights of rags and wastes which now can be entered under duty rates that, since January 1, are 50 per cent lower on rags, and average 32 per cent lower on other wastes. The wool trade, and particularly manufacturers, are waiting to learn how the large supplies of waste will affect wool prices. Likewise the buyers of cloth for the production of garments hesitate to make commitments on prices until they can know the extent of additional cloth imports and their effect on cloth prices after January 1, the date at which imports could be released from customs under the lowered duties. Fortunately, a number of mills already were working on goods ordered for delivery as late as February. These concerns have come into the market for raw wool and helped to prevent a more serious decline in price quotations.

Senator Borah (Idaho) has expressed himself to the National Wool Growers Association and to the press as favoring repeal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934, and the return of all tariff-making functions to the Congress. The Senator wrote also that he would expect to discuss the matter further with other senators and representatives of the wool growers, and to support any plan that might be agreed to.

Senator O'Mahoney (Wyoming) has also been active. It will be remembered that when the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Bill was before Congress in 1934, the Wyoming Senator expressed to the President his fears that the proposed new plan of making tariffs would react unfavorably upon the wool-growing industry. It was in reply to a letter from the Wyoming Senator that President Roosevelt then said:

The wool industry is one of those which need price protection, and the suggestion that the new tariff bill might be used to lower those prices is one which would not have occurred to me.

The strange thing is that the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act already has injured wool prices. The announcement, on November 17, of the lowered duties on rags, wastes, cloth, and felt hat bodies reacted upon the market very unfavorably to growers. The agreement with the United Kingdom had been pending for many months. The idea that the market had already discounted any possible terms of the agreement was proven to be wrong. There was a

direct drop in prices. And what upset the market more was the suggestion in the announcement that further reductions in wool duties and manufacturers' compensatory duties were under consideration in connection with new trade agreements.

It is well known that there have been supposedly "unofficial" conversations between officials of the Department of State and representatives of the Australian Government concerning tariff concessions. References to these conversations, appearing in Australian newspapers, show that wool duties have been discussed.

It was this situation that caused Senators O'Mahoney (Wyoming), McNary (Oregon), and others to write as they did in December to the Department of State. We print the letter addressed on December 12 to Secretary Hull by the Senator from Wyoming:

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

Although there has been as yet no formal announcement of an intention to negotiate a reciprocal trade agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia, the trade program which has already been carried out seems to justify the assumption that such negotiations are in contemplation. The contents of the recent agreement with Great Britain are such that I am prompted to trespass upon your time to urge, once more, that in any preliminary conversations which may take place with representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia it be made clear that the State Department will not, in any event, consider any reduction of the duty on raw wool.

Although I know full well that in the opinion of the State Department the losses which may be suffered by any particular industry as a result of tariff concessions to foreign countries are likely to be made up by the general improvement of trade which it is hoped to bring about through the reciprocal trade policy, the domestic situation with respect to both wool and woolen textiles remains so acute as to prompt me to make the most vigorous representations in behalf of the vast wool producing sections of the nation.

Agriculture remains the basis of our economy. The improvement of the prices of all agricultural products continues to be the principal objective of this administration. It is utterly inconceivable to me that, at a time when the domestic farm price for wool is still substantially below that of a year ago, any department of the government would take any step which, by any possibility, could be deemed dangerous to the industry.

It has been to stabilize the domestic wool market and support domestic prices that government loans have been and are still being made on the 1937 and 1938 clips. More than ninety million pounds of wool have been appraised this year by the Commodity Credit Corporation and obviously any concession on the tariff on wool would not only have the immediate effect of depressing the price, but it would impair the value of the loans made by the government through this agency.

It is not my intention here, Mr. Secretary, to discuss in detail all the various objections to a reduction of the rates on raw wool, but my concern for the welfare of American producers is such that although my position is well known to you, I cannot refrain from again expressing my profound hope that you will give no consideration to any concessions upon raw wool.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. O'Mahoney.

The State Department replied by means of its usual form letter used on such occasions. It assured the Senator that no announcement had been made regarding a trade agreement with Australia, and that in the event such negotiations should be officially opened, the wool growers would have an opportunity to appear before the Committee for Reciprocity Information. But Senator O'Mahoney was not so easily quieted, and renewed his demand that the State Department announce now that wool will be eliminated from any conversations or negotiations in connection with tariff changes. He informed Secretary Hull that the assurance of a hearing for wool growers before his committee, upon which there sits not a single man who actually participates in the negotiations with other governments was "unsatisfactory."

The Senator's reply to the Department of State was as follows:

My dear Secretary Welles:

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of December 20 in response to my communication of December 12 with respect to wool and the reciprocal trade program.

I am, of course, aware that there are no formal negotiations for a trade agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia in progress at this time. I am also familiar with the procedure which has heretofore been followed by the State Department after it has been announced that negotiations with a particular country are to be opened. I know that those who are interested in the protection of any commodity which may be listed for consideration in any negotiations to be undertaken are given an opportunity to present their views to the representatives of the State Department before the agreement is concluded. With these matters I am not now concerned.

What I am trying to express to you, to Secretary Hull and those who may be employed by the State Department is my profound hope that in any preliminary conversations which may occur with representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia it be made clear that wool is not to be listed among the commodities upon which any concessions will be considered.

In other words, I am trying to induce the State Department to adopt my view that in the present depressed state of agriculture in the United States our government should not, in any circumstances whatsoever, contemplate any reduction of any kind in the present tariff upon wool. I should like to persuade you to state explicitly that wool will not be listed among the commodities to be considered in the event that formal negotiations are undertaken with the Commonwealth of Australia.

The belief is widely entertained that it is the intention of the State Department to negotiate a trade agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia and that the representatives of Australia will seek concessions on wool. I should like therefore to secure from you or from Secretary Hull a letter which I may be able to transmit to producers of raw wool in Wyoming and throughout the West setting at rest their present fears.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph C. O'Mahoney

Representatives of the National Wool Growers Association who were in Washington in December found a feeling of increasing dissatisfaction among members of both branches of Congress over the trade agreement policy, the terms of the agreements, and the secrecy of their negotiation. Members of both political parties expressed the view that in the Act of 1934 Congress had gone too far in delegating its powers, and that it should at least amend the 1934 law to require that future trade agreements must be ratified by the Senate before becoming effective, just as are regular

treaties. In fact, some of the best authorities on the Constitution insisted in 1934, and still insist, that a trade or any other agreement or contract between the government of the United States and another government is a treaty and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

If Senate approval of trade agreements shall hereafter be required, it is plain that such approval cannot be obtained for many duty concessions such as have heretofore been granted by the Department of State and the President. It is extremely doubtful whether the Senate would today sanction any reduction in the tariff on wool.

On January 4, Senator McCarran (Nevada) introduced a bill (Senate 91) that would require ratification by a two-thirds vote of the Senate of all trade agreements that may hereafter be negotiated under the authority of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934.

New truth-in-fabric, or labeling bills were introduced in Congress on January 3. The Senate bill is number 162 by Senator Schwartz (Wyoming) and a similar House bill is number 944, by Representative Martin (Colorado).

Convention Month

DURING January, conventions of state wool growers' associations are being held in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Utah. The twelve state organizations affiliated through the National send representatives to San Angelo, Texas, for the 74th Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers' Association. Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, California and Texas held conventions during the summer and fall months of 1938, and New Mexico's meeting is set for February 9-10.

Growing attendances at all these conventions and the increasing interest in the programs and association affairs are ample testimony to the value of at least one annual getting-together of sheepmen in each state, and of all the states having a discussion of their problems and planning for action through the National Convention.

Of course the chief attraction, and perhaps the main value of any convention still lies in meeting new people and renewing acquaintance with others in the same line of business, or in associated industries. Programs and speeches are becoming more businesslike and practical. Addresses by men whose business it is to keep track of legislative and public questions affecting the industries enable the membership to see all angles of their problems, and to decide wisely as to what proposals or movements the industry should support, and what to oppose. It is at all times the endeavor of the wool growers to keep their industry in a condition to serve the public interest. Rarely, and never in recent years, has any position been taken, or any policy adopted, that does not fully square with the idea of constructive fairness to all the people and to other industries.

Anyone wishing to understand the position of wool growers and the caliber of those engaged in that industry can do no better than to read the committee reports or resolutions in the form they finally are adopted in the various state conventions and the National Convention.

A Texas Welcome to Wool Growers



To the Members of the National Wool Growers Association and the Women's Auxiliary:

As the meeting date of the 74th annual convention of your associations draws near, we should like to urge you to make your plans to attend the same. You will honor us by your presence and every effort will be made by local citizens to make your stay in our midst an enjoyable occasion.

Preparations are now under way for your entertainment and the State of Texas and the City of San Angelo are looking forward to your anticipated visit with much interest.

Sincerely yours,

**J. C. (Cub) Deal, Secretary,
Board of City Development,
San Angelo, Texas.**

**Dorsey B. Hardman,
San Angelo, Texas.**



**H. E. McCulloch, President
San Angelo Board of City
Development**



**J. C. Deal, Secretary
San Angelo Board of City
Development**



**Dallas F. Wales, Manager
Hotel Cactus**

**C. B. Wardlaw, Vice President
National Wool Growers Association,
and President, Texas Sheep and
Goat Raisers Association**



**Dorsey B. Hardman
San Angelo, Texas**



**G. W. Cunningham, Secretary
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers
Association**



Louis A. Schreiner

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Of The Seventy-Fourth Annual Convention of The National Wool Growers Association

San Angelo, Texas — January 24, 25, 26, 1939

Tuesday, January 24, 1939

9:00 A.M.

Registration

Meeting of Executive Committee and Organization of Various Convention Committees

1:30 P.M.

Vice President Wardlaw, Presiding

Music

Convention Prayer:

Dr. B. O. Wood, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church,
San Angelo, Texas

Address of Welcome:

Hon. B. A. Carter, Mayor, for the City of San Angelo
Hon. Dorsey B. Hardeman, State Representative, for
the State of Texas

Response:

Dr. S. W. McClure, Bliss, Idaho

Address:

Mrs. W. P. Mahoney, President, Women's Auxiliary
to the National Wool Growers Association, Heppner,
Oregon

The President's Annual Address:

R. C. Rich, Burley, Idaho

Introduction of Resolutions

Individuals or associations are invited to submit resolutions at this session before being referred to the appropriate committee.

Report of Secretary:

F. R. Marshall, Salt Lake City, Utah

Convention Announcements:

J. Culberson Deal, Manager, Board of City Development, San Angelo, Texas

8:00 P.M.

Winning Lamb Customers: Lamb Cutting Demonstration
Paul A. Goeser, National Live Stock and Meat Board,
Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, January 25, 1939

10:00 A.M.

Music

The Texas Wool Warehouse System:

E. S. Mayer, San Angelo, Texas

United States Senate Investigation of Wool Marketing:

J. B. Wilson, Secretary, Wyoming Wool Growers Association, McKinley, Wyoming



Cactus Hotel, Headquarters for the National Convention at San Angelo, Texas.

Federal Wool Marketing Loans:

Lawrence Myers, Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

2:00 P. M.

Music

Reciprocal Trade Agreements As Viewed by a Wool Grower:
Roger Gillis, Del Rio, Texas

Reciprocal Trade Agreements As Viewed by a Cattle Raiser:

F. E. Mollin, Secretary, American National Livestock Association, Denver, Colorado

Promoting Lamb Consumption:

C. B. Denman, Agricultural Counsel, National Association of Food Chains, Washington, D. C.

7:00 P. M.

Dinner Dance (Complimentary for Visitors)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The regular annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Wool Growers Association will be held at 9 a. m., January 24, 1939, at the Cactus Hotel, San Angelo, Texas; also a meeting of the associations holding stock in the National Wool Growers Association Company.

Thursday, January 26, 1939
10:00 A. M.

Music

The Wool Market Situation and Prospects:

Charles Redd, President, National Wool Marketing Corporation, La Sal, Utah

H. Clyde Moore, President, Boston Wool Trade Association, Boston, Massachusetts

The Sheepman on the Highways:

Chester H. Gray, Director, National Highway Users Conference, Washington, D. C.

Address:

C. A. Stewart, Deputy Governor, Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C.

Music

2:00 P. M.

Reports of Committees:

Lamb Marketing: G. N. Winder, Colorado, Chairman

Predatory Animals: Leo Hahn, Oregon, Chairman

Wool Marketing: Roger Gillis, Texas, Chairman

Public Domain Grazing: S. M. Jorgensen, Utah, Chairman

Forest Grazing: T. C. Bacon, Idaho, Chairman

General Resolutions: John A. Reed, Wyoming, Chairman

Report of Nominating Committee

Election of President and Vice Presidents

Unfinished Business — New Business

4:00 P. M.

Meeting of Executive Committee

Friday, January 27, 1939

Visitors will be guests of the Texas wool growers on a drive to Kerrville, Texas, where Louis A. Schreiner will serve a barbecue lunch. There will also be opportunity to inspect wools in the warehouse operated by Mr. Schreiner.

From Kerrville, visitors will be driven to Del Rio, thence across the International Bridge for dinner at Villa Acuna, Old Mexico.

Saturday, January 28, 1939

On Saturday morning the party will return to San Angelo, stopping for a steak dinner at the Ranch Experiment Station at Sonora, Texas. The Sonora Station, under the direction of Superintendent W. H. Dameron, is doing some notable experimental work in connection with production, and diseases of cattle and sheep. Visitors will be given a valuable opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of the station.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

of the

Tenth Annual Convention of the
Women's Auxiliary to the National Wool Growers
Association

Monday, January 23, 1939

Meeting of Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 24, 1939

Morning Coffee, Crystal Ballroom

Registration

Joint Session with National Wool Growers
AssociationJoint Session with National Wool Growers
Association: Lamb Cutting Demonstration

Wednesday, January 25, 1939

Singing

Greetings and Response

Reading of Club Collect

Committee Appointments

President's Address: Mrs. W. P. Mahoney

Guest Speakers

Solo

Committee Reports

Song

Discussion 4-H Club Work:

O. M. Plummer, General Manager, Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Oregon

Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, Heppner, Oregon

Solo

Old Business — New Business

Dinner Dance

Thursday, January 26, 1939

Singing

Talk on Goat Raising:

W. H. Dameron, Superintendent of the Ranch Experiment Station, Sonora, Texas

Solo

Unfinished Business

Election of Officers

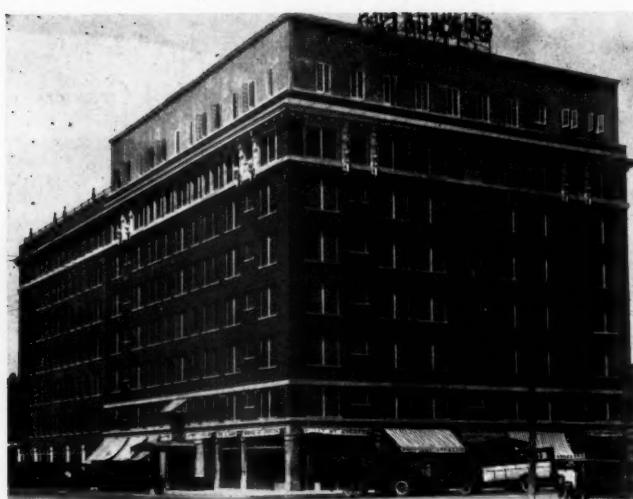
Committee Meetings

Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28, 1939, Drive to Del Rio and Return.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE LADIES

In addition to the early morning coffee listed on the program for eight o'clock, January 24, at which the newly organized Women's Auxiliary to the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association will be hostess, many other delightful social events are being planned for women guests at the convention. Details were not received in time for inclusion here, but will be carried in the official printed programs.

Mrs. Len Mertz is chairman of the San Angelo Women's Committee on Entertainment and Mrs. Willie B. Whitehead of Del Rio is president of the new Texas Auxiliary.



St. Angelus Hotel, San Angelo, Texas



Naylor Hotel, San Angelo, Texas

Railroad Fares and Routes To the National Convention

TICKETS to San Angelo and return will be sold by all railroads on the basis of one-and-one-half times the single fare. Such tickets are good for 30 days. In some cases a slightly lower rate is obtainable on a 21-day ticket. No certificates are required as the railroads have not granted special rates to any conventions in recent years.

Special Pullman Cars

From most of the intermountain territory the shortest route is through Salt Lake City or Denver.

The Colorado and Southern, and Santa Fe lines are arranging for special through sleepers to run from Denver to San Angelo, leaving Denver, Sunday evening, January 22, at 8 p.m., and arriving at San Angelo, Monday evening. Tuesday is the first day of the convention. There is no regular through sleeper service on this route.

All those who wish space in these through sleepers from Denver to San Angelo are requested to write early to the National Wool Growers Association. It is necessary to notify the railroads in advance of the number of persons for whom sleeping car accommodations should be provided.

Routes to San Angelo

From the Far West and Northwest, the most direct route will be via San Francisco or Los Angeles. Where there is a choice of routes, the fares are the same. The Santa Fe lines run from San Francisco and Los Angeles and that

road is the only one having its own tracks into San Angelo.

Those who wish to spend some time in California should buy their tickets to some point in that state and then buy from there to San Angelo and return. Tickets sold from intermountain territory via Denver cannot be used in returning via California.

Cost of Return Tickets

The railroads have furnished the National Wool Growers Association with the figures in the table showing the cost of tickets from the points named to San Angelo and return. Pullman fares are not included. The amounts shown are for standard fare. Tourist and coach rates are considerably lower.

Convention Hotel Rates

BELOW are shown the rates that will be in effect at the three largest hotels in San Angelo, Texas, during the 74th annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association, January 24 to 26:

Cactus Hotel (235 rooms): Single rooms, \$2 to \$3.50; double rooms, \$3 to \$5.

St. Angelus Hotel (250 rooms): Single rooms, \$1.25 to \$3.50; double rooms, \$2 to \$5.

Naylor Hotel (125 rooms): Single rooms, \$1.25 to \$2; double rooms, \$2 to \$3.

In addition to the above hotels, there are a number of comfortable smaller hotels with rates from \$1 up, and a number of excellent tourist camps.

ROUND-TRIP, FIRST-CLASS RAIL RATES TO SAN ANGELO, TEXAS	
(via Amarillo)	Amount
From:	Amount
Yakima, Washington	\$89.95
Portland, Oregon	98.00
Pendleton, Oregon	86.00
Klamath Falls, Oregon	86.35
Helena, Montana	75.15
Boise, Idaho	73.08
Cheyenne, Wyoming	40.80
Rawlins, Wyoming	48.60
Salt Lake City, Utah	56.55
Denver, Colorado	34.35
Elko, Nevada	70.19
Reno, Nevada	74.55
Red Bluff, California	79.10
San Francisco, California	77.50
*Los Angeles, California	58.55
*Phoenix, Arizona	41.35
Flagstaff, Arizona	45.15
Gallup, New Mexico	35.80
Las Vegas, New Mexico	31.50
Albuquerque, New Mexico	25.50

*Special 21-day rate

Rates and routes should be checked at local railroad offices in advance of the time of departure for San Angelo.

More Hearings on Fabric Labeling

IT WILL not be through lack of agitation and official consideration if woolen garments are not soon labeled so as to inform purchasers of their fiber content.

It must be understood that the proceedings of 1938, so fully reported in the *Wool Grower*, were in two distinct but related parts. The proceedings before Congress resulted in passage by the Senate, on June 13, of the Schwartz (Wyoming) bill. Only two Senators opposed the bill and it passed without a roll call. A similar bill introduced in the House by Mr. Martin (Colorado) was favorably reported by the committee, but this action came too late in the session to allow a House vote. The Schwartz-Martin bills are being prepared for reintroduction in January.

These bills would require labeling to show content of virgin wool and of reclaimed wool or fibers of vegetable origin, and say that in cases of claimed mislabeling, proof of fiber content is to be made by reference to records which manufacturers would be required to keep in such form as would show fully the materials put into each fabric. These bills also contain provisions calculated to make certain that all imports of cloth or garments will be labeled in exactly the same way as is proposed for articles produced in the United States.

In 1937, wool growers' associations endorsed bills pending in Congress which called for labeling to show fiber content without distinction between virgin and reclaimed wool. At that time rayon was being used extensively in men's suitings and in most cases its presence was not known to purchasers. The 1937 bills would have required labels to show the content of rayon or of any fiber other than wool. It is at this point that some confusion has developed.

During 1937 the Federal Trade Commission, under its regular plan of procedure and in consultation with producers and users of rayon, put

into effect a set of rules requiring the labeling of fabrics and garments to show the percentage of rayon used. This rendered unnecessary the pending legislation which was chiefly planned to provide for labeling as to the content of rayon, cotton, etc.

Then in January, 1938, the Federal Trade Commission announced that under its general powers conferred by law it would go into the question of labeling wool fabrics and garments. Late in March a public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving from all branches of the wool industry proposals as to how labeling should be done. The Commission was not then committed to the promulgation of any rules.

A system of labeling was proposed by spokesmen for wool growers and by a few manufacturers, notably the Forstmann Company of New Jersey. Under this plan labeling would be required, and in a way to show the presence of "reclaimed" wool, when such is present, as distinguished from virgin wool. This proposal was endorsed by numerous witnesses for consumer groups, labor organizations and by agricultural organizations who claimed greater interest in the position and rights of their members as consumers than as wool producers.

At the same time manufacturers proposed a labeling plan under which no attempt would be made to distinguish between virgin and reclaimed wool. In other respects this plan was considered by grower representatives as being quite ineffective.

Witnesses for cloth manufacturers and garment makers mainly opposed the whole plan. They objected at first to the Commission's action in recognizing producers and consumers as members of the "wool industry." They insisted that only those engaged in the wool textile industry were entitled to discuss with the Commission the question of labeling of wool garments. They also claimed that it was impractical and

misleading to consumers to label in a way to distinguish between virgin and reclaimed wool. Further special hearings for opponents were granted by the Commission. Finally, after a nine-months' interval and careful study of the whole question by the Commission's experts, a tentative set of labeling rules was distributed on November 26 and announcement made that, on December 14, all interested parties would be heard in objection to, or support of the tentative rules and that thereafter the Commission would publish and give effect to such rules as it may finally decide should be observed in the labeling of wool fabrics and garments.

This final hearing which opened on December 14, is what this story started out to explain. However, there is little that is new to be reported. The opposing cloth and garment manufacturers were even more vehement and belligerent than in former hearings. Through Arthur Besse, president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, they challenged the legality of the Commission's publishing any labeling rules that are not accepted by the "wool textile" industry—the cloth manufacturers and garment makers. Mr. Besse again charged that a statement of virgin wool content is of no value to consumer-purchasers as an indication of wearing qualities of a fabric. In effect he threatened that his association would take court action to restrain the Commission from promulgating any labeling rules for woolen materials.

An amusing counter attack upon wool growers was unloosed by Mr. Besse in the form of a proposed set of rules for labeling wool sold in sacks to protect wool dealers and manufacturers against failure by growers to disclose the true clean content of each fleece, the grade, the extent of injury by drought, presence of foreign material, etc.

There are printed below a few interesting excerpts from the testimony

offered on December 14 and 15 and reported quite fully in the *Daily News Record*.

Testimony of Opponents of Proposed Rules

The proposed regulation not only will tend to mislead the public by giving a false value to a deceptive term, but will injure the public by causing them to pay more for articles in no sense superior to those which they now purchase. If consumers are misled into believing that virgin wool fabrics possess virtues which may not be attributed to fabrics made in part from byproducts and wastes, they will demand such fabrics. If a virgin wool fabric is demanded it will be produced, but if the price is to remain constant, the manufacturer must take out of the fabric some other component of value if he is to produce to meet the virgin wool definition.

The reason for this lies in the fact that if he disposes of his byproducts instead of utilizing them himself, the value of those byproducts depreciates because of decreased demand and the cost of new material appreciates because of increased demand, so that his net manufacturing cost is increased by the sum of the two changes.

This increase in the price of wool because of increased demand is exactly what the wool growers are after, but it is a fraud on the public. Has it not occurred to the Trade Practice Division of the Commission that if the supposed virtues of virgin wool fabrics were actual, it would have been profitable for someone to supply such fabrics and to have labeled them as such? No regulations are required to compel manufacturers to supply a public need for which the public is prepared to pay in proportion as the need is satisfied.

* * *

The proposals represent not an attempt by an industry to prevent unfair methods of competition, but bureaucratic control of industry at the behest of special interests.

The original release of the Federal Trade Commission dated February 18, 1938, refers to a "trade practice conference for the wool industry," and carries an invitation from the Commission to attend the conference to "all parties engaged in the production and marketing of wool, or in manufacturing, selling or distributing wool or part wool fabrics or products." This covers not one industry but many, i.e., wool growers, wool dealers, felt manufacturers, carpet manufacturers, felt hat companies, the underwear and hosiery industries, wool textile mills, knitters of outerwear, the men's and women's apparel industries and clothing and department stores.

All of these groups naturally have an interest in the subject of labeling wool textiles, but it is to be noted that the proposed rules actually refer solely to wool textiles and do not contemplate any regulations in connection with the labeling of

the raw material. It is not reasonable to attempt to preserve the fiction that this is a trade practice conference when those primarily affected—that is, the wool textile manufacturers—were not consulted at all. In the original release of February 18, the Commission stated that the conference "was authorized by the Commission at the request of and in cooperation with members of the industry." This comes pretty near being misrepresentation itself.

The requests came from exactly two members of the wool textile industry which consists of over 600 establishments, and from the Secretary of the National Association of Wool Growers and the Secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association.

The wool growers' representatives do not come to the bar with clean hands. It is difficult to find any other raw material sold under conditions such as prevail in the selling of American wool. The purchaser not only has to pay for an undisclosed amount of dirt, filth, and grease in the fleece itself, but in addition is often charged with foreign matter and sub-standard wool deliberately introduced into the bale to increase its marketable weight. Nowhere is the need for regulation to provide for honest marketing more urgent than in the sheep raising industry.

Testimony of the Supporters of the Proposed Rules

F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association, was the last witness, and he protested the statements of Mr. Besse in which Besse drew an analogy between reworked iron, copper, and reworked wool. The analogy does not hold, Marshall said, because reworked iron and copper are not deteriorated in any way by refuse, but Mr. Besse himself said that reworked wool is deteriorated by reworking.

Rule 7 of the proposed regulations takes care of the fear Mr. Besse had said he felt that the American market would be taken over by foreign manufacturers if the rules are allowed to go into effect.

A splendid job in drafting the rules has been done by the commission, J. B. Wilson, of the National Wool Growers Association, and various state organizations, said in a speech punctuated with sarcasm and attacks on Mr. Besse's statement.

Mr. Wilson outlined at some length the difference in buying raw wool and piece goods; the former, he said, was open for complete inspection and analysis and he thought that piece goods might also have the same inspection, and while it is impractical to pull a cloth apart, that labeling it properly would make inspection easy and practical.

"Without going into the argument of whether there are some reclaimed wools which are better than some virgin wools, we have consistently maintained, and even Mr. Besse will not deny, that reclaimed wool is always inferior to the virgin wool from

which it has been produced," Mr. Wilson said.

"Mr. Besse spoke yesterday of worsted ends which sold for 62 cents. He made this remark to show that some wool which would be called 'reclaimed wool' under the Federal Trade Commission's proposed rules is more expensive than some virgin wool. It is interesting to note here that the Australian wools from which these 62-cent worsted ends were made cost 85 cents in their clean washed virgin state.

Mr. Besse contends that the consumer does not care how a fabric is made but is only concerned with the amount of wear that it will give. Since in this particular case the virgin wool fabric will outwear the fabric made entirely of the same reclaimed wool by more than 15 times, the consumer will readily see by which product he is the better served."

Regulation of the woolen and worsted industry must come through the demands of the consumer, and that regulation must come from an outside force, Curt Forstmann, executive vice president of the Forstmann Woolen Co., Passaic, New Jersey, declared.

Consumers feel that if a label shows whether a fabric is made of reclaimed or virgin wool, some check as to intrinsic value is afforded; such a label also permits a check on fair and unfair competition, and lastly consumers have a right to know what they buy, Margaret Dana said. She stated she represented the consumers' forum of the Atlantic Monthly, a magazine, and had consulted many consumers and groups on labeling.

Retailers need education too, she said, and cited three cases. One was a large department store men's clothing buyer who said the proposed rules would not affect him as his store only bought virgin wool products, only to be informed by his research director that he was wrong, as 90 per cent or more of the merchandise for over a period of 20 years was largely reclaimed wool. The second case was of a men's specialty shop selling sports things. The executive there said he did not believe shoddy was sold any longer. The third case was of a sweater buyer for a chain store who claimed his organization never handled shoddy.

Skunk, Miss Dana said, is this season a most popular fur, yet when the F.T.C. fur rules were being discussed by the fur trade, members of that industry declared no woman would buy a skunk coat as a skunk coat. The facts now show differently, she stressed.

Keen interest in favor of the wool rules as offered by the Commission was voiced by Mary McGredy Fleming, secretary of the truth-in-fabric committee, representing, she said, some two million women who are members of auxiliaries of the American Federation of Labor.

These women, she said, want to know when they are buying anything made from wool as to what part is virgin wool and

what part is reclaimed wool, because they feel virgin wool has long life, and added warmth. They do not, Miss Fleming declared, want to pay virgin wool prices for merchandise palmed off on them as virgin wool, but which is reworked wool.

She read at length from an interview in the *Daily News Record* of November 30 in which an unnamed retailer was quoted as saying rules as proposed by the Commission were needed, especially in the low-end clothing field, to prevent wool substitutions. The retailer's interview she offered as adequate testimony for the need for the regulations.

Early in December women of the Federation of Women's Clubs of the District of Columbia voted that they were in direct accord with the regulations as set forth by the Commission, Mrs. Ernest Howard, of the Department of Legislation of the clubs stated. She said the women in the district wanted to know what was what when they bought anything. She quoted from a statement by President Roosevelt in which he said, speaking of the Pure Food and Drugs Act, that the public was entitled to have unadulterated products and to have not only isolated firms making honest goods, but all industry.

Action by Colorado Association Directors

THE eight directors of the Colorado Wool Growers Association held a meeting at Denver on December 13. Among the important matters discussed, and upon which action was taken were trade agreements, coyote control, and wool loan values.

The following resolution in regard to trade agreements was adopted:

Whereas, The power vested in the President of the United States to cut tariffs in trade agreements and the effect of the trade agreement just completed with the United Kingdom have had a demoralizing effect on the wool industry for the past year. This has created an unstabilized condition and feeling of uncertainty both for the producer and the manufacturer and has created a critical condition in the wool industry.

Therefore be it resolved: That this Board disapproves of Congress delegating sole authority to the President to cut tariffs in trade treaties. We request our senators to support or introduce a bill in Congress that will require the approval of these treaties by the Senate before they can become a law. We are opposed to the tariff cuts contained in the treaty with the United Kingdom or any tariff cuts on wool or wool commodities of any kind. We request all of our senators and representatives to use their influence to prevent any tariff cuts on wool

and wool commodities in future treaties.

In connection with loan values, the directors said:

We recommend to the National Wool Growers Association and to our Congressmen and to the Secretary of Agriculture that a higher loan value on wool be established. We consider the pre-war period for wool values unfair and entirely out of line with the cost of labor and supplies that enter into the cost of production. We request that a fairer base price be established.

The directors also voted to favor legislation to continue the present mill levy by the state for predatory animal work, and to request an additional appropriation of \$50,000.

Idaho Forest Advisory Boards Recommend Permit Limits

ON December 9, elected representatives from each of the 12 Idaho forests met at Boise with grazing officials of the Forest Service office at Ogden for consideration of the future limits to be established for grazing permits.

The representatives of the permittees finally recommended a scale of lower limits for various forests ranging from 250 to 1250 head. The upper limits recommended varied from 3,000 head to 8,000 head.

In regard to special limits, the committee recommended that these be known as "prior limits," and further said:

We find ample justification for prior limits (special limits) to fix the number of livestock at which existent dependent commensurate preferences will be given protection. These preferences were established in good faith under the then-existing regulations of the Forest Service administration. We feel that the Forest Service is both morally and legally obligated to recognize these cases under the special limit and give them the permits to which they are entitled. We recommend therefore that the present authority granted the Regional Forester in such cases be continued.

In reference to its recommendations regarding lower and upper limits, a report prepared by the committee said:

Due to the fact that there is evidently a feeling of considerable uncertainty among the members of the different advisory boards as to just what the lower limits should be, we recommend that they be requested to

further discuss this question and endeavor to reach a more definite conclusion. * * * It is our feeling that after a thorough study and discussion of this policy, it is very apparent that the Forest Service can offer small hope to new applicants to secure permits by grant for numbers of sheep corresponding to the lower limits as recommended. We therefore are of the opinion that it is entirely possible that these limits should be materially reduced.

In justification of proposed upper limits for the different forests, we advance the following reasons:

1. These limits, as now established, are the result of thirty years' experience in the range livestock business in Idaho and are essential to maintain a sound range industry.

2. Without a reasonable upper limit, the possibilities of barter and trade would be largely destroyed. Generally speaking, a sheepman's best customer, when he desires to sell, is one in the business who wishes to expand his operations. Any industry can never be stable with the encouragement for a reasonable expansion denied.

3. We believe no agency can definitely determine just what constitutes a social or economic unit. The history of the sheep business has shown that the numbers of sheep run by various operators in a successful way varies widely.

4. To establish a uniform upper limit for all forests is not sound and is not practical. It is obviously apparent that we are correct in this conclusion, knowing as we do the wide variations there are in the climatic, forage, topography, economic, and the geographical location of the forests.

General Statement

The best social and economic planning for the State of Idaho must recognize the necessity of maintaining a stabilized livestock industry. Consumption of surplus forage produced on agricultural land provides a market for crops which otherwise would not be salable. More than 90 per cent of the entire area of our state is uncultivated. Without livestock utilizing this area, no revenue would be derived from such land. Our state assessment rolls show about nine million acres of non-agricultural lands paying taxes, or about twice all other classifications. The answer as to why these lands are paying taxes is because we have our great range livestock industry. These tax-producing lands, by themselves, would be worthless, but combining them in a year-around operation with our fertile feed-producing farms and our federally owned and controlled grazing land, you have an industry, if permitted to exist, capable of producing annually for time to come about thirty-five million dollars.

Trust Busting

THIS nation of ours is now engaged in another trust-busting program. A Senate committee, aided and abetted by the federal government, is now engaged in telling the country how business should be operated.

The investigation was originally laid down as a smoke screen for election purposes, but as the election approached, it seemed the public was in no mood for attacks on business, of which but little remained. Following election a few of the more sensible senators took charge of the proceedings, which may eliminate the "grandstanding." Just now the investigation is in the "economist" stage. Wise men from the colleges who do not own even a pocketknife are explaining, at great cost to the taxpayers, just what is wrong with business. Their charts are legion and of many colors. Of course, if these economists knew 5 per cent as much as they can explain, they would all be millionaires, instead of working for the government at \$10,000 per year. They belong to the same group that convinced Roosevelt that by taking 40 per cent of the gold out of the dollar, farm products would forthwith rise 69 per cent and stay there for all time.

Up to date the main accomplishment of the trust "bustees" is the discovery that 70 per cent of the milk bottles are made by one concern or under control of one concern. The American people are not interested in this discovery; they want to know whether these milk bottles are well made and sold at a fair price, and how the average consumer can get money enough to fill one of them with milk.

These are some things the public would like to find out from these great trusts and corporations: The public would like to know how they continue to do business in the face of sit-down strikes, walkouts, and general labor agitation. The public would like to know how they raise enough money to meet the taxes assessed against them. The public would like to know how they expect to pay the 6 per cent social security tax when it

becomes fully operative. The public would like to know how they operate at all in the face of the punitive laws now operating to harass business in general.

The public certainly is not in favor of monopoly of any kind, whether it

be the monopoly of politicians or corporations, but it doubts the wisdom of attacking business at a time when as the President says, "One third of our people are underfed, underclothed, and underhoused."

— S. W. McClure.

Biological Survey Predator-Rodent Control Units Meet in Phoenix

EVERY three years the Division of Predator and Rodent Control of the Bureau of Biological Survey holds a conference of its employees and co-operators to discuss mutual problems and outline control work for the coming seasons. Phoenix, Arizona, was host to this organization and representatives of many cooperative agencies from December 5 to 9, inclusive.

The meeting was officially opened on December 5 by a short talk from Stanley P. Young, chief of the Division of Predator and Rodent Control, who presided over the sessions. Honorable R. C. Stanford, governor of Arizona, extended the address of welcome, and Walter C. Henderson, associate chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., made a response.

The National Wool Growers Association was officially represented by Jerrie W. Lee, secretary of the Arizona Wool Growers Association, who stated that he believed in the Biological Survey and pledged the support of the national organization to its program in controlling predators and rodents insofar as it met with the viewpoint of the wool growers.

George Wilbur, president of the Arizona Wool Growers Association, discussed the economic importance of predator and rodent control in the livestock business, stating that although other predators exacted their toll from livestock, the coyote was "first in importance to sheepmen," and "causes greater loss to us than any, or sometimes I believe, all the other predators." Mr. Wilbur emphasized the contention that the control of predators on all federal lands is necessary and an obligation of the federal government. He

stated that the Biological Survey in his state, Arizona, was well organized and composed of efficient men who were working under the difficulty of insufficient funds to give the desired protection. "The federal and state appropriations are entirely inadequate to do the work, and efforts should be made to get them increased by at least 100 per cent," Mr. Wilbur said.

Livestock cooperators brought up for discussion during the course of the meeting the "Ten Year Program" act, which authorized an expenditure of \$1,000,000 per annum for the control of predatory animals and rodents, but for which the money has never been appropriated. All livestock interests represented voiced the need for the \$1,000,000 instead of the \$600,000 available the past year, and they were assured by Stanley P. Young, chief of the Division of Predator and Rodent Control, that should such an increase be forthcoming it would be spent for field operations and none of it absorbed by increased overhead expenses.

The Arizona Sportsmen's Association was represented by James A. Beaman, president, who discussed the relationship between predator control and game, and stated that predators were large factors in hindering game restocking and propagation projects, and that the lack of sufficient funds for control work was a point of great concern to the sportsmen and that they were solidly behind any action to increase these funds which would make possible the hiring of more trappers and hunters.

During the banquet the evening of December 8 the Honorable Morales Gonzales, Mexican Consul, talked on the subject of cooperation between the

United States of Mexico and the United States of America in both game and predator work.

The Honorable James Minotto, Arizona state senator and cattleman, briefly discussed his early experiences in Arizona and his contacts with Biological Survey lion hunters who spend their lives on the trail of these vicious predators. R. K. Wickstrum spoke on Arizona wildlife problems and outlined the game program of Arizona under the merged Arizona Sportsmen's Association and the Arizona Game Protective Association.

The gathering also witnessed colored moving pictures taken and shown by Thomas J. Imler, member of the Arizona Game Commission. Stanley P. Young gave a talk on "Self Photography of Mountain Lions and Bobcats," which was illustrated by photographic slides taken by the Carmen Mountain Expedition in Old Mexico.

The California Wool Growers Association was represented by L. A. Robertson of Garberville and Douglas H. Prior of Blocksburg, California.

Mr. Robertson told of predatory animal conditions and control operations in his state and pointed out the fine cooperative relationship existing among the agencies concerned, stating, "We feel in California that the Biological Survey is the backbone of this whole predatory animal work, and all of us are going to do all we can to try to keep away from the bounty system." He gave as his opinion that more funds were needed to do work on public lands which served as a reservoir of predators which moved into sheep country.

Mr. Prior added to Mr. Robertson's remarks by giving illustrations of instances where the bounty system had failed and the shortcomings of such a program as experienced in California. Mr. Prior said, "It (the bounty system) is all wrong; it will not work. In my county the pup-hunters used to make a living starting in March and ending in June. Got all the way from around seventy pups down to none. They never caught a she-coyote, never tried to. I have known them to catch a female coyote, tie her up until the

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR SHOWS

National Western Stock Show, Denver
—January 28-February 4, 1939
Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah
—February 7-14, 1939
Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah—June 7-9, 1939

CONVENTIONS

Idaho Wool Growers Association, Idaho Falls—January 5-7, 1939
Oregon Wool Growers Association, Pendleton—January 9-10, 1939
Washington Wool Growers Association, Yakima—January 12-13, 1939
Montana Wool Growers Association, Butte—January 16-18, 1939
Utah Wool Growers Association, Salt Lake—January 19-20, 1939
National Wool Growers Association, San Angelo, Texas—January 24-26, 1939
New Mexico Wool Growers Association, Santa Fe—February 9-10, 1939
American National Live Stock Association, San Francisco—February 15-17, 1939

pups came, and then get bounty on the pups."

The California delegation voiced the advantages of the use of poison under restricted and controlled conditions in areas of heavy coyote population.

The Division of Predator-Rodent Control was represented by Stanley P. Young, chief, and Walter C. Henderson, associate chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, appeared for the Chief, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, who was unable to attend the conference.

The bureau's field organization was represented by Regional Directors Leo L. Laythe of Denver, Colorado, and Don A. Gilchrist of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as well as predator and rodent control men from Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota, Indiana, Mississippi, and the New England States. In addition, Paul T. Quick, in charge of the bureau's supply depot at Pocatello, Idaho, and F. E. Garlough, director of the Control Methods Laboratory at Denver, were present.

The following cooperative agencies had delegates in attendance: Arizona

Wool Growers Association, Arizona Cattle Growers Association, California Wool Growers Association, the Texas Predatory Animal Control Association, and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association. Representatives from the Arizona Sportsmen's Association and the Arizona Game Protective Association took part in the conference. The Arizona State Game Department was represented by State Game Warden William H. Sawtelle and members of the Commission, and the following co-operating governmental agencies sent delegates: U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Indian Service, Soil Conservation Service, Division of Grazing, Department of the Interior, and the Reclamation Service.

Hampshire Meeting

THE American Hampshire Sheep Association held its 49th annual meeting in Chicago, on November 30, with President Malcolm Moncreiffe presiding.

The treasurer's report showed a cash balance on hand November 25, of \$21,704.67. Registrations received during the year totaled 21,974.

The association went on record as favoring the Trade Practice Rules for the Wool Industry as proposed by the Federal Trade Commission and the secretary was instructed to inform the Commission of this action.

Dr. H. C. Gardiner suggested the redrafting of the constitution of the association to provide for enlargement of the Board of Directors to ten members, which he held necessary on account of the increase in membership and the wide territory covered by it. Following discussion, a motion was adopted authorizing the president to appoint a committee of three to redraft the constitution for submission to the membership thirty days in advance of the next annual meeting.

Mr. Moncreiffe was reelected president of the association; Frank Brown, Sr., of Carlton, Oregon, vice president; and Mrs. Helen Tyler Belote as secretary-treasurer. Dr. Gardiner and Macmillan Hoopes were elected to succeed themselves as directors for terms of three years.

Around the Range Country

WYOMING

Mild or moderate winter temperatures have prevailed, being very favorable for livestock, excepting for one or two brief cold spells. Fairly good amounts of precipitation occurred generally in the first two weeks, and light, scattered precipitation occurred in the last week, the third week being dry. Livestock are wintering well, excepting that heavy feeding has been necessary in some western sections due to deeper snows.

Rock Springs (Sweetwater County)

Range conditions in Sweetwater County are above average so far as weather, feed and water are concerned. There is no snow yet (December 27) except in the rough and highest hills on the Rock Springs Grazing Association's winter range, and there is ample feed left on all grazing lands.

About the usual number of ewes have been bred this year. Some sales of yearlings have been made at \$7 to \$7.50 a head. Quite a quantity of 1937 and 1938 wool is still here, unsold.

Sheepmen will be lucky if they break even on the past year's operations.

I think we should work for a national bounty on coyotes, as it looks to me as if the government trappers are too limited and too far apart and the cost per coyote is too high according to their reports of numbers caught and men employed. Coyote pups caught in

dens and tagged and turned loose have been trapped over one hundred miles from where denning in the course of six months.

If not a national bounty, why not ask the government to pay the growers for the stock killed by predators, as the range livestock producers have to pay for every foot of range land they now use, and they are being cut down in many cases by the Taylor Act to where every animal counts? In most states they have laws placing the responsibility for loss or damage to the stock-owners through the killing of sheep by dogs on the owners of the dogs. The average loss to a band of 2500 ewes and their lambs for one year is one sheep or lamb per day on the range in Wyoming.

William Chilton

Thermopolis (Hot Springs County)

December has been fine for sheep, just enough snow to make good feeding. The winter range is about on an average. From \$5 to \$6 per ton is the price range on alfalfa hay in the stack. Worland feeders have about the same number of lambs on feed as a year ago.

There is a slight increase in the number of ewes bred this season, as most sheepmen are working back to their average bands again. Yearling fine-wooled ewes have been selling at \$6.50 to \$7 a head.

We wool growers pay a bounty to private trappers and as a result coyotes

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of December.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

are less numerous than they were three years ago.

Sheepmen here had a good lambing this year and sold their lambs at 6 1/4 cents a pound. Most of their wool went to the National Wool Marketing Corporation and if it can be sold for 24 cents net, a nice profit will have been made on 1938 business.

Luke McNeil

MONTANA

Mild weather, being unusually warm at times, prevailed through the month, excepting for a cold wave in the last decade which was rather severe in places. Light to moderate but rather general precipitation occurred during the first half of the month, and in the last week or so. But most ground is bare, some ranges needing moisture. Livestock are mostly doing well, though appreciably greater feeding has been necessary lately.

Lloyd (Blaine County)

The range is in good condition (December 1). We have had some stormy weather, but just enough snow to make the grazing good. Alfalfa hay in the stack is priced at around \$8 a ton. I think fewer ewes are being fed for market in this section than in 1937, but a much larger number of ewe lambs were retained for flock replacements than was so last year. There is little if any change in the number of ewes

being bred this season in comparison with last. Some yearling crossbred ewes have changed hands recently at \$7 a head.

Coyotes are increasing, due to the fact, I think, that the trapping is all done on the flats and the coyotes are taking to the mountainous country.

I do not see any profit ahead for the sheepman; there certainly was little for him this year. Wool market conditions were bad enough this year and they look black for the future. Lamb prices also were poor this season and the lambs did not weigh out as they should. Better weight in lambs is the only chance for profit I can see for sheepmen.

Mrs. Emma Corrigan

IDAHO

Moderately warm weather prevailed through the month, excepting the third week, which was near or somewhat below seasonal in temperature. Light, scattered, and comparatively frequent rains or snows occurred, providing ample moisture for herds on the range. Some sheep are still on home pastures, but most bands are on winter range, doing fairly well. Domestic stuff is generally on part or full feed, doing well.

WASHINGTON

The month was quite mild as a rule, only the third week being comparatively cold. Rains and snows were beneficial early in the month, but amounts were only light from the storms of the latter half of the month. They were, however, rather persistent late in the month in western counties. Very little of the lower country is under snow. Livestock are doing well as a general rule.

Prosser
(Benton County)

Winter has been light and feed good; no hay feeding has been necessary thus far (December 27), but quotations on alfalfa in the stack range from \$8 to \$8.50 a ton. Fewer lambs are on feed here this year than in 1937.

The number of bred ewes on hand is about the same as that of last year.

Very few ewe lambs are kept in this section as nearly everyone uses black-faced rams. Some sales of crossbred yearling ewes have been reported at \$8.50 a head.

Since the operation of our bounty law, which provides for a payment of \$2.50 on mature animals and \$1 on pups, coyote numbers have been reduced.

The only prospect for profit in the sheep business this year apparently lies in the use of a small amount of feed; in other words, a light winter or early spring.

Clell Lung

Hooper
(Whitman County)

December weather has been ideal and at this time, the 26th, there is still a lot of old bunchgrass available and the new growth has started nicely. There is very little hay for sale in this part of the country.

Fewer ewes were bred this season due to the disposal of old ewes and fewer replacements on account of the dry early fall and poor wool market. Six dollars a head has been paid for yearling fine-wooled ewes and \$7 for crossbreds. Fewer lambs are being fed in this section this winter.

The number of coyotes varies in different sections according to the amount of work that has been done to reduce them.

In our opinion, about 60 per cent of the sheepmen in this locality will make a small profit on the year's operations; 25 per cent will break even and 15 per cent will take a loss. The job just can't be done profitably at present lamb and wool values. Things that will help some are a renewal of the C.C.C. loans; getting the benefit of water rates in connection with the movement of wools under C.C.C. loans; securing the passage of the labeling bill; getting a number of railroad charges corrected, particularly grazing-in-transit charges, and obtaining some adjustment in summer range fees.

MacKenzie-Richardson, Inc.

OREGON

Mild or moderate temperatures prevailed, averaging close to normal for

the entire state through the month. Light to moderate precipitation occurred pretty generally, and every week in most sections, in the form of snow in the eastern and mountainous sections, and in the form of rain farther west. Most of the land is bare, though with enough moisture for livestock on the winter ranges of some eastern counties.

Prineville
(Crook County)

This has been a very open winter so far (December 21). Feed is very good on the range and all stock are still doing well there. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$9 to \$10 a ton in the stack.

Fewer lambs are on feed than a year ago and fewer ewes have been bred; two large operators have gone out of business entirely. Seven dollars a head has been paid for yearling fine-wooled ewes and up to \$8.50 for crossbreds.

The boys that sold their wool and lambs at the right time made a little money this year, but if they didn't, they are in the hole.

Coyotes are increasing, due, we think, to the fact that the government trappers have too much ground to cover.

James McCabe

Dayville
(Grant County)

Feed prospects in our vicinity are very good; haven't fed any hay up to this time (December 23) and it doesn't look as if that would be necessary at least until after January 1. A little snow has fallen the last few days, but it is about gone.

Due to the closing out of some sheep outfits, the number of ewes bred in this locality is smaller than it was in the previous year, and fewer lambs have been kept for replacements because of the shortage of finances and also on account of the regulations under the Taylor Grazing Act. Fine-wooled ewes, yearlings, have sold at \$6.50 a head and \$7 has been paid for crossbreds.

Very few wool growers of this sec-

(Continued on page 42)

Can Consumers Buy Wool?

SOMEWHAT over a century ago and before Yorkshire wool manufacturers discovered that wool rags could be reduced to fiber and the resulting commodity added to the wool supply and fabrics made therefrom sold as wool, the price of wool regulated by wool supply and consumer demand had reached absurdly high figures while Spain held a virtual monopoly on fine wool.

Today wool is a drag on the market; the price still regulated by supply and demand, but not the wool supply and consumer demand as of yore, but wool and wool substitute supply taken in combination with manufacturer demand. Consumers purchase wool merchandise as they find it and what they find is not very satisfactory. Good wool fiber is metered out to them by manufacturers who supply them with a little or a lot of wool in their wool fabrics as suits the manufacturer's purpose, depending largely upon the price of wool. Substitutes for wool control the price of wool, being used in vast quantities when wool is high in price and to a lesser degree when wool is low priced. When wool price is too high, in the opinion of the manufacturers of wool cloth, many of them use shoddy made from rags, rayon waste and rayon staple fiber made from wood and synthetic fibers made from milk, soy beans, etc., but his manipulated fabrics are sold as wool.

Such is the situation. What can be done? The situation must be faced and studied, by men of the wool-growing industry, for they are the most concerned. If the wool-growing industry is to be saved, that industry must fight for the markets now being lost to the makers of wool substitutes.

Good wool merchandise must again be made readily available to the average man, woman, and child. They must be guided to such merchandise by truthful labeling of fiber content of cloth, and after a third of a century we have high hope that such labeling will be made compulsory by law and Federal Trade Commission rules.

The opponents of truth-in-fabrics legislation and rules fear that this pro-

posed law and these proposed rules will confuse and mislead consumers because some shoddy is better than some virgin wool and actual shoddy content of cloth, they say, cannot be proved.

Wool growers well know that some virgin wool is not good cloth material and they also know that that kind of virgin wool never lacks a market because it is cheap yet can be called wool. Wool growers know that many manufacturers of wool fabrics use the cheapest fibers which can be called wool and that these manufacturers are exceedingly careless as to what they call wool. Also they know that these manufacturers, with their inferior so-called wool fabrics, force manufacturers of honest wool goods out of business.

The National Wool Growers Association should make it their objective to direct consumers to good merchandise made of good wool. It should make a survey of the field of wool merchandise, carry on testing of fabrics, adopt a hallmark and give publicity to their findings. There is plenty of good wool merchandise, but the great mass of consumers wearing wool substitutes never find it and the makers of such goods, along with the growers of wool, are being forced out by the makers and venders of wool substitutes. Putting out information directing consumers to this good wool merchandise should be wool growers' business, and before information can be put out it must be obtained by actual testing.

Kleber H. Hadsel

Illinois Farm Boy Wins First International Sheep Shearing Contest

CLARENCE JEFFERS, 25-year-old youth from Princeton, Illinois, competing against district champion farm-flock sheep shearers from all over the United States and Canada, won the first International Sheep Shearing Contest in the arena of the livestock amphitheater at the Stock Yards in Chicago, December 3. The speedy young man's best time was three minutes and five seconds, which is rated as excellent time for a farm-flock shearer by Mr. E. B. Bartlett, internationally recognized authority on sheep shearing.

All contestants used Stewart E-B hand-pieces on new-type Positive Drive V-Belt electric shearing machine manufactured by The Chicago Flexible Shaft Company, Chicago, who provided four cash prizes for the contest winners. The sheep were grade Hampshires.

Time, however, was not the sole consideration of the judges in selecting the contest winners. Absence of second cuts in the fleece, condition of the shorn sheep and the fleece, method of handling the sheep were other items which were carefully considered.

The First International Sheep Shearing Contest was not open to professional western range custom shearers, but was confined to farm-flock shearers. Mr. Jeffers is typical of this group. He travels about his Princeton, Illinois, neighborhood at shearing time, in May and June, and gets 25 cents a sheep for shearing for other farmers. His average is 135 sheep per day. His first prize, awarded by The Chicago Flexible Shaft Company, was \$100.

Other winners of the contest were Carl Hakes, Hanover, Michigan, second; E. Zillig, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, third; Peter Bobenbrier, Elk River, Minnesota, fourth.



Clarence Jeffers, Princeton, Illinois, champion farm-flock shearer at the International.

THE TEXAS CONVENTION

SHEEP and goat raisers of Texas held their 23rd annual convention at San Antonio, December 8 and 9. That city is on the eastern edge of the famous, and principal area in which are kept most of the 9,400,000 sheep that make Texas by all odds the leading sheep state. The Riverina country of New South Wales, Australia, is the only sheep area as heavily stocked with sheep, but we do not understand that that area now carries as much as 9,000,000 head; also that part of Australia has few cattle and no goats. West Texas sheepmen run considerable numbers of cattle and goats.

Practically all 1938 wool is sold and the same is true of lambs. Some wether lambs are usually wintered to be sold after shearing, but that number is about normal. It would take quite high prices to move many more ewe lambs to market or feed lots. Statisticians sometimes defend themselves against complaints that their estimates of numbers of sheep and lambs are too high by saying that large numbers may yet be moved from Texas. That defense is not available this year.

Of the 300 members who came to San Antonio, all seemed to be in good spirits and unworried over debt. It must be that sales of cattle and mohair have kept them in better position than their fellow sheepmen of other states. Too, these Texas outfits run on their own fenced land. Their books charge land taxes against the sheep but may not always make a charge of interest on the value or cost of lands. With no herders or camp tenders, their out-of-pocket expenses are lower. So long as land values are not too high, they sit pretty—unless drought comes.

There was much talk of dry weather. Most sections have a good supply of cured grass, but a few have started hand feeding. Unless there are general rains before February lambing, things can become serious.

The executive committee of 128 members and a number of others were tendered a banquet on Wednesday evening by the San Antonio Union Stock Yards Company. At a subse-

quent meeting of the committee considerable business was done.

A motion to amend the by-laws of the association so as to permit a president to serve for two consecutive years was tabled. The president was empowered to appoint an advisory board of five members. Messrs. Julius Real, B. M. Halbert and Sol Mayer were made honorary life members and members of the executive committee.

Secretary Cunningham's report was presented to the first convention session on Thursday morning. During the year 7270 members paid dues by way of collections on wool handled at 48 warehouses. The warehouses charge the grower's account with 10 cents per bag and send the money to the association. The proceeds of this plan amounted to \$20,804.00, which represents more than one half of the entire Texas clip in 1938. Expenditures reported were about equal to income. The association paid its quota of \$5,262.00 of the budget of the National Wool Grower Association.

The Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association can never be affected by dry rot. The individuality and capacity of its members insure healthy contests on issues and election of officers, which, however, usually end pleasantly and harmoniously. C. B. Wardlaw, Del Rio, vice president of the National Association, was elected as the new president of the Texas Association by unanimous vote to succeed J. T. Baker, Ft. Stockton, who ably guided association affairs last year. E. S. Mayer, San Angelo, is the new first vice president.

The selection of appointive officials and action upon some amendments to the by-laws were laid over until the March meeting of the executive committee at Fredericksburg.

The special committee named in September to consider lamb advertising, and of which Charles Canon was chairman, reported against putting the plan into effect until a method is worked out to raise the additional funds that would be required. Under the plan considered there would be a campaign

to increase lamb consumption in Texas. The state now produces 14 per cent of the lambs in the United States, has 5 per cent of the country's population, but consumes only 1 per cent of the lamb supply. In 1936 the consumption of lamb from all sources in the United States was 6.6 pounds per person. In Texas and other southern states it was 1.3 pounds.

The special committee had had under consideration a campaign to run two months each year with the cooperation of packers, chain and independent retailers and supported by producers and feeders through a radio campaign designated to interest housewives and educate them upon the advantages and economy of using lamb. A set of short and very catchy transcription records for radio use in which lamb was presented in a very effective way had been prepared by a Dallas advertising firm and were played before the convention.

Mrs. W. B. Whitehead was elected as president of the newly organized Ladies Auxiliary of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association.

The Program

Only seven speakers were listed on the program for the four convention sessions. All of them were presented in two sessions, leaving the other time for association business. The feature of the speaking program was furnished by Roger Gillis in one of his characteristic impromptu addresses. This one dealt mainly with tariff matters. Logic, sarcasm and ridicule were all employed by the speaker in exposure of the errors and fallacies of the proponents of the reciprocal trade agreement policy. Mr. Gillis has agreed to address the National Convention at San Angelo. The hearing of that address alone will fully satisfy those who go to the National Convention that their time and expense money were well invested.

J. B. Wilson and the National Secretary discussed the year's developments and the status of trade agreements, fabric labeling, government wool loans and the federal agricultural program.

R. W. Doe, vice president of Safeway Stores, Inc., showed that 40 per cent of the meat consumed in the United States goes through 21,000 chain retail

stores. During last year Safeway Stores increased their efforts to sell lamb in the present areas of low consumption which include 65 per cent of the population. Mr. Doe advocated that mutton should always be marked so that it can be recognized by housewives who desire to purchase lamb.

Other speakers were Dr. Dudley Jackson on the treatment of rattlesnake bites; Dr. I. B. Boughton on parasites and poison plants that affect livestock; and Mrs. Mary Atwater on home and community production of woolen articles.

Official Expression

The text or substance of statements on important matters, as prepared by committees and officially adapted by the convention follow.

The Tariff

We believe the so-called reciprocal trade agreements are simply a subterfuge under which our protective tariff is being destroyed with deliberate purpose of setting up a "tariff for revenue only." This will re-establish a principle discarded by this country in 1897 and now condemned by every progressive nation in the world. The enactment of a tariff law affecting every producer in America, behind closed doors and in conference only with foreign powers bent on securing free access to the market belonging to the American farmer and producer, is unAmerican and unworthy of any administration. Under this system we have had four years of continued tariff revision, which has disturbed business and labor and depressed the prices of agricultural products. Not satisfied with the turmoil thereby created, we are now advised that about four more treaties remain to be enacted, assuring at least one more year of tariff uncertainty.

We protest against the enormous reductions made in many of the rates on important agricultural products, in many instances reductions as great as could be made under the law. For instance, the duty on cheese has been reduced from 7 cents to 5 cents per pound; on cream, from 56 to 28 cents per gallon; beef and dairy cattle from 3 cents to 1½ cents per pound; alfalfa seed from 8 cents to 4 cents; sugar from 2 cents to 9/10th of a cent; dressed poultry from 10 cents to 5 cents per pound; shoddy from 24 cents to 12 cents; woolen rags from 18 cents to 9 cents per pound, etc. These reductions are being made in rates that President Roosevelt said, in his Baltimore speech, before election, were not too high.

Therefore, in order that American farmers and stockmen, and labor and industry may

Stock Yard Manager



Lawrence M. Pexton,
New General Manager, Denver Union
Stock Yard Company

At the annual meeting of the Denver Union Stock Yard Company, Lawrence M. Pexton, associated with the company since 1924 as traffic manager and assistant general manager, was elevated to the position of general manager and also named a director. J. A. Shoemaker, who was reelected as president of the Denver Stock Yard Company, relinquished the post of general manager which he has formerly held to devote more of his time to financial interests of the company.

Mr. Pexton, whose very genial disposition has won many friends throughout the livestock industry of the West, is an expert on freight rates and other traffic matters and has represented his company before the Interstate Commerce Commission, in many of the recent hearings in which the National Wool Growers Association has taken part.

be freed from the confusion and uncertainty and financial losses that have followed this reciprocal trade policy, we urge the Congress, at an early date, to require that every treaty now called a trade agreement be submitted to the Senate for ratification as is provided for in the Constitution of the United States.

Truth-in-Fabric Legislation

For many years the wool industry has been threatened with the increase of substitutes in the manufacture of wool and woolens in the nature of wastes, shoddy, rayon, cotton, etc. It is now established that these substitutes comprise over 50 per cent and virgin wool less than 50 per cent

of the product which goes into these manufactures.

We, therefore, reaffirm our former position that we are wholly and heartily in favor of the passage by the Congress of the United States of what is known as the truth-in-fabric bill.

Federal Wool Investigation

We heartily commend the efforts of the Senate Wool Investigation Committee and favor legislation to correct the evils brought out by this investigation.

Processing Taxes

We are unalterably opposed to the levying of a processing or excise tax on livestock or livestock products and we request our representatives in Congress to be diligent in defeating any such taxes in any form whatsoever.

Argentine Convention

We reaffirm our former position in opposition to ratification by the United States Senate of the so-called Argentine Sanitary Convention which contemplates the slackening of regulations prohibiting the entry into this country of livestock or livestock products from other countries infected with hoof-and-mouth and other contagious diseases.

Wool Loan

We express our sincere appreciation to the Commodity Credit Corporation for having granted loans on wool and mohair during the year 1938 and respectfully request that such loans be continued for the year 1939.

Summary of Other Resolutions

State representatives were to be requested to appropriate sufficient funds to the Live Stock Sanitary Commission to handle all infectious and contagious disease among livestock, especially the completion of tick eradication.

Work of Biological Survey and its co-operative agencies endorsed and combined effort of western livestock associations asked to make the 10-year program effective.

State income tax opposed; general sales tax for partial payment of current expenses of state government favored.

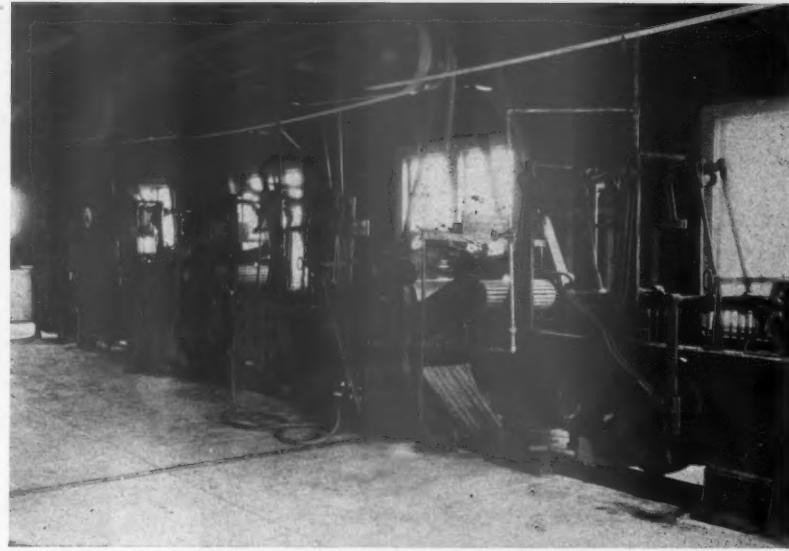
Increase of load limit on commercial motor vehicles operating for compensation and hire to not less than 14,000 pounds asked for. Better regulation of motor carriers of domestic livestock from point of origin to the primary markets favored.

It was recommended that all sheepmen's associations make a special effort to induce state and national institutions to use more lamb and that government restriction of 45-pound carcasses be eliminated.

Opposition was voiced to legislation, either state, local, or national, that would hamper the distribution of agricultural products, including "unjust and discriminatory taxation of any legitimate form of merchandising, such as chain stores."

Shrinkage of Grease Wool in Relation To Prices

By Russell L. Burrus, Associate Marketing Specialist and James J. Window,
Assistant Marketing Specialist
U. S. Department of Agriculture



A Commercial Wool Scouring Plant.

Although discussed among sheepmen for years and years, the question of shrinkage of clips is rarely understood by a wool grower. Even those who consign and have their clips sold at the markets by experts who can estimate shrinkages as accurately as can the mill buyers, do not always get from the consignee the information as to the estimate of shrinkage upon which sale of the clip was based.

And yet shrinkage is the principal factor in setting the price of any clip at any time or place. Of course, length and grade, character, color, and other factors are important, but the shrinkage must be determined by the buyer so that he may know what percentage of the grease or buying weight will come out of the scouring vats and go into the mill machinery. Not all buyers can estimate shrinkage accurately. In fact, top wool men are considered to be doing quite well if a number of them hit within a range of 2 per cent on the shrinkage of a particular clip.

But what can be said of the grower-sellers? A few of them have had tests of their clips made and know its approximate shrinkage, or yield for the test year. When there is knowledge of the actual yield or shrinkage in a recent year, the grower can estimate, in a useful way, the yield of the next year's clip through his knowledge of the difference in the weather and feed conditions under which the untested clip was grown; provided too that there has been no material change in the character of the range or in the breeding and care of the flock.

But the cases in which the grower is able to figure at all accurately the value of his clip from a good estimate of its shrink are quite rare. For the rest of us the appraisal before pricing must be made principally on the basis of what supposedly similar clips are selling for

and on the hope of sufficient competition among buying houses to get us a price somewhere near the true value.

The home selling of wool cannot approach a scientific basis, or come very close to really efficient business practice until the grower can tell within 2 or 3 per cent of what his clip will shrink and can calculate from reports of market prices on a scoured basis for the classes or grades comprised in what he seeks to sell.

The excerpts printed here from the publication by Burrus and Window will not enable a novice to determine the shrinkage of his wool, but if he is studious and will exert himself, the material reprinted here will enable him to make a closer guess on his shrinkage, though not a close enough guess to protect him from accepting too low an offer or asking an out-of-line price.

But when, by test or otherwise, a shrinkage figure is arrived at that is believed to be reasonably correct, the arithmetical calculations for which directions are given will do the rest.

Some of the opening paragraphs will seem like old stuff, but the facts need to be better known and applied for efficiency in wool selling, particularly in selling at home.—THE EDITOR.

WHEN shorn from the sheep, wool carries varied quantities of natural wool grease, dried perspiration, dirt, sand, chaff, seeds, and burrs. In this condition it is called "greasy wool" or "grease wool." Before greasy wool is manufactured, the natural grease and foreign matter must be removed. This is usually accomplished by a cleansing

process called "scouring," which causes a considerable loss from the weight of the original greasy wool. This loss in weight is known in the trade as "shrinkage" and is expressed as a percentage of the original weight of the greasy wool.

Thus a pound of greasy wool is not a pound of pure wool fiber. A pound of greasy wool (that may later shrink 60 per cent in scouring) consists of four tenths of a pound of pure wool fiber and six tenths of a pound of grease, dirt, and other foreign matter.

Variations in Shrinkage of Domestic Wools

Taking into consideration all wool-producing areas in the United States and all grades of wool, the shrinkages of greasy shorn domestic wools range mostly from a low of around 35 per cent to a high of around 75 per cent. The average shrinkage of the domestic clips of recent years has been estimated by members of the wool trade and manufacturers at around 60 per cent. This means that, on the average, only about 40 pounds of scoured wool will be obtained from 100 pounds of greasy shorn wools. A few of the lightest-shrinking domestic wools may yield as much as 65 pounds of scoured wool, whereas many of the heaviest-shrinking domestic wools yield only 25 pounds

(Continued on page 24)



Champion Rambouillet Ram, Bred and Exhibited by King Bros. Company, Laramie, Wyoming.



Champion Corriedale Ram, Bred and Exhibited by King Bros. Company, Laramie, Wyoming.



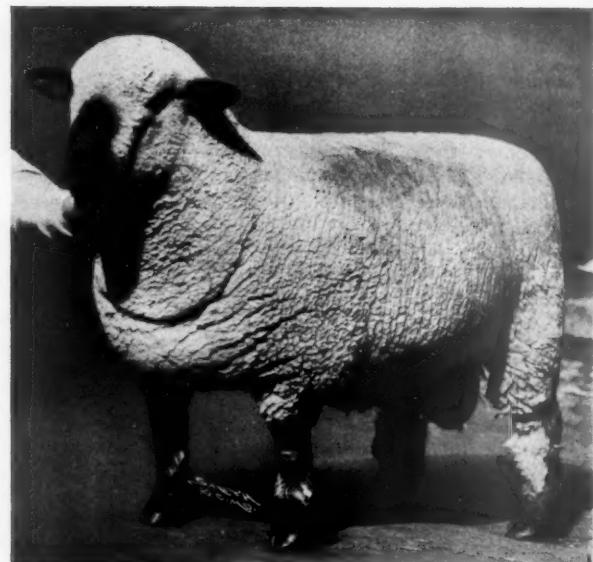
Champion Rambouillet Ewe, Bred and Exhibited by the University of Wyoming.

International Show Winners

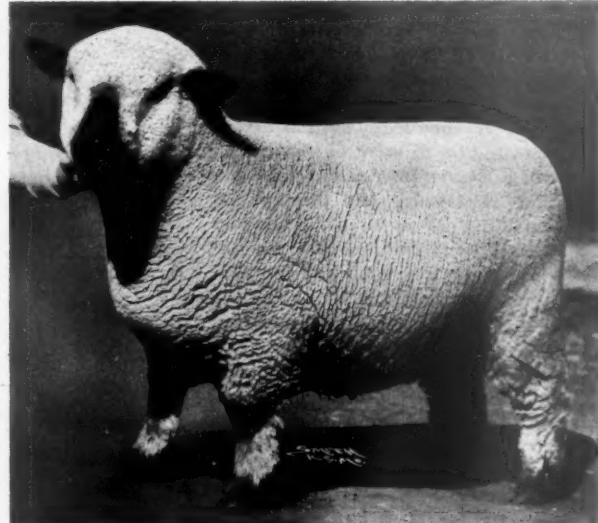


Chicago, Illinois

November 26-December 3, 1938



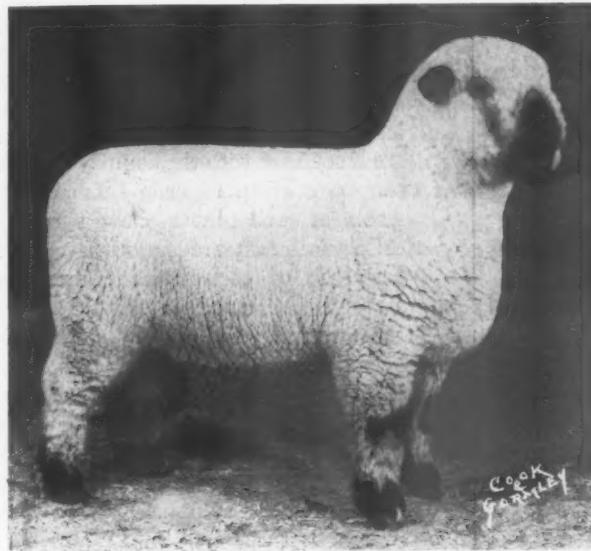
Champion Hampshire Ram, Imported and Shown by Glenn Retreat Farm, Dorchester, Texas.



Champion Hampshire Ewe, Imported and Shown by Glenn Retreat Farm, Dorchester, Texas.



The First-prize Carload of Range Lambs, Bred and Exhibited by Frank H. Means, Saguache, Colorado.



Reserve Champion Hampshire Ram, Bred and Exhibited by Mt. Haggan Land & Live Stock Company, Anaconda, Montana.



Champion Corriedale Ewe, Bred and Exhibited by King Bros. Company, Laramie, Wyoming.

Small Demand for Crops

HERE in Idaho hay is begging at \$6 a ton, with the prospect that it will sell for \$5. Of course, hay at \$6 is fully on a par with other agricultural prices. Be that as it may, the price should have been higher and would have been higher only for the uncertainty that for several years has surrounded the livestock business. Press reports a meeting of farmers in eastern Oregon to decide what to do with their hay. At such meetings there is always much talk about baling or chopping and shipping. Mostly such a scheme is out of the question for

anyone who understands the waste and expense of such operations.

The effort to regulate grazing on the public domain has been attended with so much speechmaking, so many rules and regulations that many stockmen have reduced their flocks and herds through fear of what might happen to them rather than by reason of any reductions ordered by officers of the law. In some cases actual reductions have been made. The constant agitation against range stockmen has long since decided many stockmen to retire to some other business where overgrazing and erosion are not so constantly reported. The result is year

after year many range livestock have been shipped out of the state and farmers now find themselves without a market for their produce. While western states have made a vigorous effort to ape the old settled farm states, the truth is the range livestock industry always will represent the largest part of their income. No farm program can get very far from alfalfa and maintain profitable production. So long as this is true, these western states might be more careful of their range livestock industry.

S. W. McClure

Shrinkage of Grease Wool In Relation to Prices

(Continued from page 21)

of scoured wool per hundred pounds of greasy wool.

Table 1.—Approximate shrinkage ranges of domestic wools

GRADE	Fleece Wools		Territory Wools Per Cent
	Bright Per Cent	Semi-Bright Per Cent	
Fine	57-63	63-70	64-75
½ Blood	52-58	57-64	58-67
⅓ Blood	44-50	52-58	53-62
⅔ Blood	41-46	47-55	48-57
Low ¼ Blood	38-43	43-50	44-53
Common and Braid	38-43	43-50	44-53

Table 1 indicates roughly the ranges of shrinkage found in two well-known groups of domestic wools. These shrinkage percentages were compiled from estimates reported by dealers, mill buyers, and investigators, who are experienced in handling or studying domestic wools. Although these percentages do not cover the entire possible range of shrinkage, they are believed to provide a fair representation of the situation that exists with regard to shrinkage of Fleece and Territory wools over a period of years. * * *

Territory wools are wools grown under range conditions in the range areas of Washington, Oregon, the intermountain states including Arizona and New Mexico, and in the range areas of the Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Territory wools have a wide range in shrinkage and in color.

Other western wool-growing states produce wools that show wide ranges of shrinkage. Texas flocks under normal conditions produce some clips that shrink only 55 to 57 per cent for good length 12-month wools. The average 12-month wools are usually estimated to shrink around 60 to 64 per cent, but some shrink over 65 per cent and, in the Pan Handle, occasional clips with shrinkages running between 70 and 80 per cent have been reported.

California produces wools that show a wide range of shrinkages. Fine clips from sheep of Merino and Rambouillet flocks of Humboldt and Mendocino counties sometimes have shrinkages

under 50 per cent but the average for these counties is 52 to 61 per cent. Southern California wools, on the other hand, sometimes have shrinkages as high as 70 per cent or more.

Oregon wools likewise have varied shrinkages. The so-called "Valley wools" of Oregon — those produced from farm flocks in the Willamette Valley — sometimes have shrinkages lighter than the shrinkages of Ohio Fleece wools, while some of the range wools of Oregon may have shrinkages equal to the heaviest shrinking in Territory wools.

Shrinkage variations are closely associated with fineness and length of wool staple as well as with the locality in which the wool is grown, production practices, and climatic conditions.

Shrinkage and Grade

Shrinkages of greasy wools vary directly with the degree of fineness of grade. Under ordinary conditions in a given locality, Fine wools shrink more than ½ Blood wools, and ½ Blood wools shrink more than ⅓ Blood. Hence, shrinkages of greasy wools tend to decline with each step of increase in the coarseness of the fiber. But conditions vary from one locality to another. As an illustration, the ⅓ and ¼ Blood grades of wool of one locality may have heavier shrinkages than the ½ Blood grade of another locality, as can be readily noted by a study of the overlapping of the shrinkage ranges for Territory wools shown in Table 1. This makes it necessary to study the grade of wool in connection with the local conditions that influence shrinkages.

Shrinkage and Length of Staple

Shrinkage variations are also related to some extent to length of staple. This is especially true of Fine and ½ Blood

wools. In coarser wools, length is not so important a factor in shrinkage variations as it is in ½ Blood and Fine wools. The usual tendency in the Fine wools is for the long staple to show lighter shrinkages than the short-staple wools. Shrinkages of Staple Combing length Fine wools in individual lots may run 1 to 2 per cent lighter than shrinkages of French Combing length, and 2 to 3 per cent lighter than shrinkages of Clothing length wools. The same tendency is found in different lengths of ½ Blood wools, but the difference in shrinkage due to length is inclined to be smaller than in Fine wools.

Shrinkage and Locality

Variability of shrinkages in greasy wool is a characteristic by no means peculiar to the wools of this country. Wools from Australia and South America have variations in shrinkages that are associated with the country in which the wools are produced. Likewise, the wools of each country have shrinkage differences that are more or less characteristic of the different producing areas in the country. Recognition of the universal tendency of the shrinkages of wools to vary, led to the adoption by the Congress of the United States of a tariff law which, in regard to wool, provides that the duties be levied upon the clean content rather than upon the actual weight of wools imported.

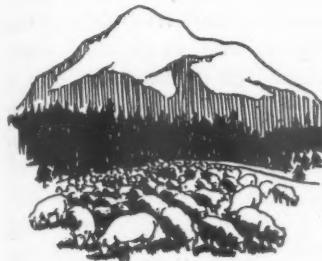
That shrinkages vary as between particular localities is true because of natural conditions characteristic of the localities. The character of the soil over which sheep graze has a decided bearing upon the shrinkage of the wool. In pastures and ranges that have a loose sandy soil and a thin covering of vegetation, foreign material like sand is likely to get into the fleeces. Shrinkages are inclined to be heavy when sand comprises any considerable part of the foreign matter in fleeces, although appearance of fleeces may be misleading, for the wool may be light in color, suggesting lightness of shrinkage. On the other hand, fleeces may often be quite dark because of the presence of dark-

C.C.C. WOOL LOANS

Through December 30, 1938, the final date on which applications for loans could be filed, the Commodity Credit Corporation had made loans totaling \$13,961,865.05 on 77,077,639 net grease pounds of wool. The total includes repayments of \$3,846,565.73 covering 21,154,931 pounds of wool.

(Continued on page 29)

National Wool Marketing Corporation



News Bulletin

Grower Owned and Operated



THE year closed with a very healthy domestic wool market. It is estimated that over ten million pounds of domestic wool was sold to manufacturers from Summer Street in the last week of the year. A very large percentage of this volume was supplied by the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

Manufacturers are usually reluctant to add to their inventory in the last week of a year. Such unusual activity at this time is in striking contrast to other years when manufacturers are usually more inclined to talk about the trials of the past and prospects for the new year than the business of buying wool. The demand was not confined to one or two manufacturers who might have been caught short on wool but included topmakers, spinners, and manufacturers, all of which leads to a firm belief that there is business in the New York cloth market and that manufacturers are well supplied with orders, for the time at least. Current indications point to an active market for the first few weeks of the new year, at least, and that domestic stocks of good wool will be well used up before another clip is available.

Consumption

Many mills after months of part time operations are running three shifts in an effort to complete deliveries of lightweight goods for spring sale. Consumption has speeded up for the month of November to about eleven million pounds grease wool per week as compared with nine million pounds per week in October, and it is expected December will show consumption of around fifty million pounds grease wool equivalent.

Seldom has there been so little wool invoiced on January 1 in Boston. It is estimated that not more than ninety million pounds of grease wool can be found outside of manufacturers' hands. This would be less than two months' supply at the present rate of consumption. This augurs well for a strong market, and under normal conditions such a situation would constitute a "squeeze play" on wool and prices would skyrocket as they did in the last months of 1936 and the first two months of 1937, at which time we were able to lift domestic prices substantially above foreign importing parity. Conditions, however, seem to be different. Something is holding business back. It is true that foreign importing parity in December, 1936, on average Fine Ter-

ritory wool was about \$1.04 clean while 70 cents clean is about parity on similar wools as of December, 1938. This represents a reduction of about 32 per cent from December, 1936, values.

The value of domestic wool cannot long stay above or equal to importing parity. We are now selling wool freely at 68 cents clean, which is getting very close to parity. In fact, one prominent manufacturer backed away from us recently, stating he would turn to Australian wool before he would pay us 68 cents clean for original-bag Territory type. We have a ceiling so far as price is concerned.

Trade Agreements Disturbing Factor

So far as has been determined, the trade agreement with the United Kingdom has not seriously affected values of worsted cloth of average value. The reduction from 18 cents to 9 cents in the duty on rags has had a very damaging effect upon woolen wools, for the term "wool rags" seems to be elastic enough to admit into this country some very useable material. We are now beginning to ascertain that the reduction in duty on noils (a by-product of the combing process) is in effect increasing conversion costs of wool tops, and in this way directly affects the value which the topmakers are able to pay for grease wools.

The knowledge that a trade agreement with Australia is under consideration by our State Department is the most disturbing factor in the industry as a whole and serves as a decided check to the value of wool that would otherwise be justified by supply and demand. It is a known fact that Australia and Argentina have few commodities upon which to trade except wheat and wool. We surely do not need their wheat and can get along very well at the present time without their wool. Our State Department has sole authority to execute such agreements involving a reduction in duty on wool without consultation with wool growers whose interests are vitally affected, except to hold hearings. No manufacturer is going to lay in a stock of grease wool for future use costing approximately foreign parity when an agreement with Australia involving duties on wool is under consideration. This is probably the principal cause for the instability of wool values and the reason why the present active demand for wool and limited supplies of domestic stocks have not forced values much higher.

Goods Market

There seems to be a lot of business in New York, particularly in the worsted division. It is pointed out that manufacturers of men's wear enter the new year with almost twice the volume of orders on their books as this time last year, and the almost impossible task is to get the cloth for the lightweight season manufactured and out to the wholesalers by February 15. We understand some are contemplating opening the fall heavyweight season thirty days earlier than usual.

An interesting feature is noted in the trend of automobile fabrics toward fine wool. For years the call has been for cheaper fabrics involving the use of quarterblood and three-eighths grades. It now appears that a shifting to fine wool is in process. This is probably due to the relatively cheap clean cost of fine wool and the scarcity of the medium fleece wool grades. Specifications for material covered by contracts are good. One of the largest topmakers states their deliveries of top in the month of November were the greatest in the history of their company.

Foreign Markets

Foreign markets seem to be doing very well without a great deal of assistance from America. Values at all foreign auctions in Australia and South America are stable. Clearances have been fairly good with the exception of Argentina where the wool growers are chaffing under the barter system with Germany which provides for payment by Germany in manufactured goods. This does not suit the wool growers and we do not blame them. Arrangements are in process whereby the government will give certain assistance to the wool growing industry in that section. The Australian wool growers are not having too happy a time. In many instances they, too, are forced to accept less than the cost of production, low as it is in that country. It is now thought by some authorities that the bulk of the good wools from Australia will be sold by early spring and that auctions will not be held later than March.

Domestic Market

We have, temporarily at least, won our battle for October values. It will be remembered that previous to signing the agreement with the United Kingdom we had lifted the market to practically foreign importing parity, or about 68 and 69 cents clean for good Class 3 wool. Immediately after publication of the provisions of the agree-

ment, the market went into a tailspin and quite a few dealers contracted a well-developed case of the jitters, forcing their limited supplies on an unwilling market, which pushed the market down to 62 cents clean, at which point a lot of good wool was sold. The National Wool Marketing Corporation refused to participate, and in the last week of the year we have sold millions of pounds of Class 3 wool at 68 cents clean or better, which is practically foreign importing parity. A good 64's warp topmaking wool from Australia can be laid down at New England mills for 76 cents clean. After deducting about 6 or 7 cents for the difference in conversion cost, it places foreign importing parity at 69 and 70 cents clean. Class 4, or the average length Fine wool, may be quoted at 67 cents clean, with the shorter types of clothing at about 65 and 66 cents. These prices are fully 6 cents clean higher than prevailed during the slump in the middle of December. The Halfblood grade is again coming in to its own with the better types fetching around 67 and 68 cents clean. Average to short Halfblood is still selling around 63 and 64 cents. Three-eighths grade has largely been neglected. A few sales of this grade were made at the low point in the middle of December around 57 and 58 cents clean. In the last fortnight a fair weight has been moved at around 60 and 62 cents clean. It cannot be said, however, that this grade is a market favorite at the present time. Not a great deal of Quarterblood is available. Once in a while a sale is consummated at around 55 and 56 cents.

Fleece wools, or farm state wools, are in very limited supply, particularly of the Quarterblood grade. Hardly enough of this type of wool is offered to make a market. We have in the last few days sold a fairly light type of Fleece Three-eighths at 31 cents in the grease, which is 1 cent less than the same type of wool commanded in October.

We feel that our selling policy has been vindicated.

We show below for five grades the present values and importing parity, also the current quotations on eleven grades along with equivalent grease prices for various shrinkages.

	Domestic Value	Importing Parity
Territory Fine Staple	70@72c	73@74c
Average French Combing and Original-Bag		
Fine and Fine Medium	67@69c	70@72c
Halfblood Grade	65@68c	70c
Three-eighths Grade	60@62c	69c
Quarterblood Grade	55@57c	68c

Quotations on Domestic Graded Territory Wools — Week Ending December 29, 1938

	Boston Scoured Basis Prices	Grease Equivalents Based Upon Arbitrary Shrinkage Percentages (2)					
		Shrink & Gr. Equiv.	Shrink & Gr. Equiv.	Shrink & Gr. Equiv.	Shrink & Gr. Equiv.		
Fine Combing (Staple)	\$.70-.73	(63%)	\$.26-.27	(65%)	\$.25-.26	(68%)	\$.22-.23
Fine French Combing	.65-.68	(64%)	.23-.24	(66%)	.22-.23	(69%)	.20-.21
Fine Clothing	.60-.63	(65%)	.21-.22	(68%)	.19-.20	(71%)	.17-.18
½ Blood Combing (Staple)	.66-.68	(58%)	.28-.29	(60%)	.26-.27	(64%)	.24-
½ Blood French Combing	.62-.65	(59%)	.25-.27	(61%)	.24-.25	(65%)	.22-.23
½ Blood Clothing	.59-.61	(60%)	.24-	(62%)	.22-.23	(66%)	.20-.21
¾ Blood Combing	.58-.60	(53%)	.28-.29	(55%)	.27-	(58%)	.25-.26
¾ Blood Clothing	.54-.56	(54%)	.25-.26	(56%)	.24-.25	(59%)	.22-.23
¼ Blood Combing	.54-.56	(50%)	.27-.28	(52%)	.26-.27	(55%)	.24-.25
Low ¼ Blood	.53-.55	(45%)	.29-.30	(47%)	.28-.29	(50%)	.27-.28
Common and Braid	.51-.53	(44%)	.29-.30	(46%)	.28-.29	(49%)	.26-.27

Lamb Markets in December

Denver

RECEIPTS of 93,000 sheep and lambs at Denver during December were 9,400 head larger than the receipts of December, 1937. Colorado and Idaho furnished the big end of the supply, with the former state sending in 39,000 and Idaho contributing 33,000. Receipts from Wyoming totaled 13,000, from Utah, 5,500, from Texas, 5,400, Oregon, 2,800, New Mexico, 2,600, Nevada and Arizona, 1,000 each.

December receipts included many fed lambs from southern and eastern Colorado feed lots and wheat fields and Idaho feed lots and a few from northeastern Wyoming feed lots. The average quality was fair to good.

There was comparatively little fluctuation in prices during the month. Prices showed strength at the close and a fairly good demand for fat lambs was reported throughout the month.

A total of 105 cars of Colorado fat lambs sold at \$8.35 to \$9.15 with many sales ranging from \$8.75 to \$9. Eleven cars of northern Colorado lambs sold from \$8.65 to \$9.15 FPR. Sixty-one cars of Idaho lambs sold in a range of \$8.15 to \$8.90 and Wyoming lambs ranged from \$8.25 to \$9. Several carloads of Oregon lambs sold from \$8.40 to \$8.75 and Utahs from \$8.25 to \$8.75.

Odd lots and a few carloads of fat ewes sold from \$2.25 to \$3.90 with most sales above \$3.25.

The supply of feeder lambs was not heavy and sales ranged mostly from \$8 to \$8.60, the top price being paid for three cars of 73-pound lambs from Gunnison County, Colorado.

Colorado feeders took 14,400 lambs from the Denver market in December; Nebraska, 8,500; Kansas, 2,200 and Wyoming, 1,000.

The Atlantic Coast and interior Iowa packers purchased 18,500 fat lambs at Denver in December. Total of the lambs slaughtered at Denver during the month was 33,000, an increase of

3,000 over the same month of 1937.

W. N. Fulton

Kansas City

LAMBS closed December 25 cents under final quotations in November and 25 cents above the low spot of the month. The price swing for the month held within a 50-cent range, which, considering unsettled conditions in the meat trade, was small. In December there were labor troubles at numerous packing houses, some stock yards, and in the meat distributing end at a few of the eastern centers. In most cases strikes were terminated by agreement or through new contracts, so that in final analysis they had no more than a temporary influence in the live market. However, they caused some uncertainty in marketing.

Taking the month as a whole, demand was even and well distributed as to markets, thus bringing about more stability than would have prevailed had the supply been crowded onto a few markets, leaving other points with bare spots. The government report showing more lambs on feed than a year ago had a bearish influence for a time, but this was offset when offerings at the various markets continued to find a ready outlet.

December brought a change in the movement from range lambs to fed lambs. A large part of the run at Missouri River markets came from wheat fields of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Few arrived from the three big feeding sections of Colorado. Some of the wheat-field lambs averaged 90 to 104 pounds, indicating that winter wheat has been an efficient fattening feed. The supply of wheat-grazed lambs will be fairly well cleaned up in the next three to four weeks. The movement from the northern and central belt was fairly large but prospects are that January will account for increased marketing. On the basis of present demand, the supply of winter fed lambs will not be burdensome and if business con-

tinues its upward trend there should be a firmer market.

November closed with best lambs selling at \$9.10 and December closed with top at \$8.85. The high spot of the month came on the 2nd and 3rd, with \$9.25 paid freely. At mid-month offerings sold at \$8.60 down. The prevailing tops ranged from \$8.85 to \$9, in fact the high price was in that range on 19 of the 26 market days. Most of the fat lambs had been short fat, many of them having been handled on wheat fields or on other relatively cheap feeds, the feeders have been getting fairly profitable prices. Weight gains have been good.

The top price for lambs this month was the same as in December last year, but a year ago price fluctuations were larger and last year closed with best lambs bringing only \$8, followed by relatively low prices during the first months of 1938. The losses sustained by feeders in the first quarter of 1938 kept a good many from feeding this winter. The present situation is that thin lambs were laid in at lower prices than a year ago, feed is materially cheaper and prices for fat lambs are above the 1937 close.

Cheap feed will probably make for strong weight in January, February and March offerings. Early offerings are already showing along that line and, if continued, dressed tonnage will be large.

Fat sheep encountered an equally even demand along with lambs. Price fluctuations were narrower, but the per cent price movement was about the same. Best fat ewes sold up to \$4.25 and most of the crop went over the scales at \$3.50 to \$4.10. Most of the fed yearlings brought \$7 to \$7.50, top \$7.70, and shorn southwest range yearlings brought \$6 to \$7.25.

Fed feeders were offered on the market during the month, but early in December there was a liberal movement of Texas lambs direct to various feeding sections. Since feed is plentiful it is fairly certain that there will be a

Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES

Week Ended:	Dec. 31, 1938	Dec. 24, 1938	Jan. 1, 1938
Lambs:			
Choice	\$ 9.21	\$ 9.22	\$ 8.56
Good	8.90	8.92	7.90
Medium	7.78	7.88	7.05
Common	6.00	6.16	6.14
Ewes:			
Good and Choice	4.17	4.17	3.40
Common and Medium	2.94	2.95	2.62

NEW YORK AVERAGE WESTERN DRESSED LAMB PRICES

Choice—38 lbs. down	\$18.25	\$18.20	\$16.25
Good—38 lbs. down	17.25	17.60	15.25
Medium—All weights	15.00	15.40	13.60
Common—All weights	14.00	14.40	12.62

very few lambs offered in feeding flesh during the next few months and feed-lot replacements will drop to a minimum.

December receipts were 94,292, an increase of 29,912 over the last month of 1937. Most of the supply came from Missouri, Kansas and Texas. Colorado offerings were limited. Receipts for the year 1938 were 1,506,199, as compared with 1,468,635 in 1937 and 1,276,618 in 1936. In the first five months this year there was a decrease of more than 127,000, but each month since then there were increases that in the aggregate brought a net increase for the year of approximately 38,000.

C. M. Pipkin

St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for the month of December were 78,557 compared with 60,000 in November and 63,646 in December a year ago. The year's total was 1,010,821 against 945,384 in 1937. Of the month's total about 33,000 were from Kansas wheatfields, 3,000 from Nebraska, 3,800 from Colorado, 1,800 from Idaho, 8,400 from Texas and New Mexico, and 28,400 from Missouri and Iowa.

The lamb market was uneven during the month, but closing prices are little

changed with a month ago. Fed lambs sold on late days at \$8.60@8.85, with natives up to \$8.75, and clips at \$8.25. The high point of the month was \$9.15 on the first and second, and the low was \$8.50 on the fifteenth. A few feeders sold during the month at \$8.10@8.35. Yearlings and older sheep are fully steady with a month ago. Best ewes sold \$3.75@4, wooled wethers \$5@5.25, two-year-olds \$6.25, and yearlings \$7.50 on the close. Clipped wethers sold at \$4, twos at \$5.50, and yearlings \$6.50.

H. H. Madden

Chicago

A \$9@9.50 lamb market, Chicago basis, with the customary differentials, is on the tab for January and on that basis feeders will have no ground for complaint.

Bulk of the December run changed hands on that basis; profitably to feeders, and as killers got out whole, it was an era of good feeling. At intervals the market cracked 25 to 50 cents per hundred, for which feeders were solely responsible; repetition may be expected at intervals in the immediate future. Consensus of trade opinion is that prices will seek higher levels as the season works along, the residue of the crop works into stronger hands,

and fleeces acquire length. A \$10, front figure market is confidently expected.

Native lambs have vanished and apart from an occasional gob, the warmed-up western delegation, farmed, is stringing out; once supply from that quarter is out of the way a less erratic trading basis is certain. Truck-loads exert a peculiarly demoralizing influence as they come out of the wind. On the last market day of December, an Iowa man trucked 650 lambs from an interior Iowa point; others made a stab in the same direction, creating an overload on which prices broke 25 to 50 cents. Packers, after paying \$9.50 the previous session, refused to pay \$9.01 and an apparently firm \$9.25 to \$9.50 market flopped to \$8.75@9. This occurred also at the middle of the month under similar conditions.

Shipping demand, mainly New York, is the supporting influence. Considering cheap pork, a flood of poultry, mild weather and a generous volume of lamb slaughter, the December market was a creditable affair. At the crest of the rise, early in the last week, New York took 30 cars of lambs at Chicago, not reckoning with purchases elsewhere. Even on the breaks few lambs sold under \$8.75 and they lacked condition; the \$8.25@8.50 kinds were useful for local trade. Yearlings, a large percentage of them of Texas origin, sold anywhere from \$7.25 to \$7.75 with an \$8 top, frequently repeated, or about \$1.50 under lambs, although the product goes over the retailer's block in that guise. The fat ewe market was a \$3.75@4.25 affair with a \$4.50 top. The country took a handful of feeding lambs, mostly short-feds at \$8@8.75, although that business could have been vastly expanded at the same money.

A significant fact is that every break is followed by prompt reaction. Feeders have a habit of building up a market; then glutting it; a \$9.50 top at Chicago has invariably started a run. But it is a profitable trade as gains have been made around 6 cents per pound. Favorable physical conditions all over the corn belt operated to feeders' advantage. Condition of the bulk of the lambs going to the butcher up to the turn of the year was excellent;

(Continued on page 34)

Shrinkage of Grease Wool in Relation To Prices

(Continued from page 24)

colored soil of the grazing land or dust from corrals, but the shrinkage may not be very heavy because such dirt is comparatively light in weight.

Sheep that have been grazed on heavily grassed pastures produce fleeces with comparatively light shrinkages because the dense sod reduces the quantity of loose soil or sand that comes in contact with the wool. The bluegrass pastures of Kentucky have contributed to the reputation of those wools for light shrinkages. The sandy, sparsely vegetated acreages common to many of the western sheep-producing states are largely responsible for the heavy shrinkage of wools coming from that area.

Variations in natural conditions that influence shrinkage, like soils and vegetation, are such that sometimes within a distance of 50 miles, differences in shrinkage of 5 to 8 per cent are found in wool clips of comparable grade and length, from sheep of similar breeds.

Shrinkage and Climatic Conditions

The climatic conditions that prevail in a given locality during a year are taken into consideration in estimating the probable shrinkage of wool produced in that locality. Droughts and their detrimental effect upon pastures and ranges may cause the growth of the wool to be less than normal, and short-staple wools tend to run heavier in shrinkages than do long-staple wools. Then droughts frequently are attended by dust and sand storms which may greatly increase the shrinkages of wools produced in drought areas or in the areas over which clouds of dust and sand are driven. Heavy rains that occur just before shearing may wash a considerable portion of the foreign matter out of the fleeces before they are shorn and cause wools to have unusually light shrinkages. A continuous blanket of snow on ranges during the winter helps to keep fleeces clean and free from foreign matter which means that

the shrinkages will be light, while an open winter tends to increase shrinkages as the sheep constantly come into contact with dirt, sand, and other foreign materials that get into the fleeces.

Wools Marketed in Greasy Condition

Growers sell their wools in the greasy condition and the established practice of worsted manufacturers and topmakers is to buy wools in that condition. Buyers for worsted mills and topmakers prefer to make their original examination of a lot of wool—to ascertain the grade, length, strength, character, and uniformity—before the wool is scoured. They usually refuse to buy wools that have been scoured. This practice is generally followed the world over by the processors who use the worsted system of manufacture.

The wool is paid for at a certain price per pound of greasy wool, but

alone give little information as to market prices. The grease-basis price on an individual lot of greasy wool may represent the market price for that particular lot but may not be within 5 cents per pound of the market price of another lot of wool having a similar degree of fineness and length of staple, but having a different shrinkage (Table 2).

Wools that are quoted on a scoured basis are actually wools that are still in the greasy condition—not yet scoured. This fact is often misunderstood. The scoured-basis price is for the clean wool fiber that will be gotten from the greasy wool. For example, the scoured-basis price, "Fine French Combing 85-87c," means that Fine wool of French Combing length, after being scoured, is worth 85 to 87 cents per pound, excluding the cost of scouring. In actual trading, the quantity of pure wool fiber in greasy wool is estimated. The cost of scouring is not included in the scoured-basis price.

The shrinkages upon which the grease equivalents in Table 2 are computed are those frequently estimated for lots handled on the Boston market, but in selecting the percentages of

Table 2.—Scoured-basis prices per pound, Boston, for Fine and $\frac{3}{8}$ Blood Territory wools and the grease-equivalent prices at various shrinkages.

GRADE AND LENGTH	Market Prices Scoured Basis*	Grease-equivalent Prices		
		Light Shrinkage	Medium Shrinkage	Heavy Shrinkage
Fine Combing (Staple)	88-90	33-34	30-31	26-27
Fine French Combing	85-87	32-33	29-30	25-26
Fine Clothing	81-83	31-32	27-28	24-25
$\frac{3}{8}$ Blood Combing	78-82	38-40	35-37	33-35
$\frac{3}{8}$ Blood Clothing	73-75	35-36	33-34	31-32

*Compiled from the Weekly Review of the Wool Market, mimeographed report released by the Boston office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the week ending October 24, 1936.

before the bid is made the buyer estimates the approximate percentage of clean wool fiber that the greasy wool will yield, and bases his bid on that.

Greasy Wools Quoted on a Scoured Basis

Market prices of wool, with but few exceptions, are quoted on a scoured basis. Wools grown in the West, Southwest, and in several states of the corn belt have shrinkages of such wide variations that prices on a grease basis

shrinkage for this example, no attempt was made to cover the entire range of variations in shrinkage. The purpose is to show the influence of shrinkages upon the prices paid for greasy wools.

In accordance with shrinkage variations, prices paid for grease wool vary over a rather wide range. Usually, prices for grease wool show a range much wider than the range for scoured-basis prices for wools of similar fineness and length. For example, early in the 1937-clip season, Medium Da-

kota wools, in lots with Combing and Clothing lengths, of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ Blood grades, packed together, were sold through Boston wool houses at around 34 to 35 cents in the grease, delivered to eastern buyers, whereas at the same time, Ohio and Michigan wools put up in the same way were bringing 39 to 40 cents. The scoured-basis prices on the Dakota wools and on the Ohio and Michigan wools, delivered to buyers, were in the range of 71 to 73 cents. The differences in "grease prices" were caused by the differences in shrinkages. The Dakota wools were being estimated to shrink 51 to 52 per cent, while the Ohio and Michigan wools packed in the same way were being estimated to shrink 45 to 46 per cent.

Grease-basis prices on original-bag lines of Fine Territory wools of comparable length have been observed to vary as much as 10 to 12 cents per pound during the same week in the Boston market, because of the wide variations in shrinkages of the greasy wools.

Estimating the Boston Grease Price

The principal reason for the differences in grease-basis prices for wools of the same grade is found in the differences in yield of scoured wool fiber. For example, wools shrinking 62 per cent yield 38 pounds of scoured wool per hundred pounds of greasy wool, while wools shrinking 66 per cent yield only 34 pounds of scoured wool per hundred pounds of greasy wool, and wools shrinking 70 per cent yield only 30 pounds of scoured wool per hundred pounds of greasy wool. These are shrinkages found quite generally in Fine Territory, Texas, and West Coast wools. Bright $\frac{1}{4}$ Blood Fleece wools often shrink only 42 per cent, which means that they yield 58 pounds of scoured wool per hundred pounds of greasy wool. Semi-Bright $\frac{1}{4}$ Blood Fleeces, on the other hand, often shrink 50 to 55 per cent, which means that they yield only 45 to 50 pounds of scoured wool per hundred pounds of greasy wool.

Assuming that the shrinkage of a clip of wool is 67 per cent and the market price is 88 cents, scoured basis, in Boston, a grower can make calcula-

tions, using as the basis of the computation a unit of 100 pounds as follows:

	Pounds
Total quantity of grease wool	100
Estimated shrinkage 67 per cent	
Loss in scouring—67 per cent	
of 100 pounds	67
Estimated quantity of scoured wool	33
Market price, scoured basis—88 cents per pound.	
Value of scoured wool: $0.88 \times 33 = \$29.04$	
Now, there are 100 pounds of grease wool.	
Therefore, the approximate grease-wool price is $\$29.04 \div 100 = \0.2904 or 29 cents per pound.	

The price of 29 cents per pound represents the approximate price of the greasy wool in Boston.

Estimating the Local Grease Price

An estimate of the Boston grease-basis price may be obtained from Table 3, provided the shrinkage and the scoured-basis market price are known.

Table 3.—Grease-basis prices per pound at given shrinkages and scoured-basis prices.

Scoured-basis Prices	GREASE-BASIS PRICES									
	PER CENT OF SHRINKAGE									
Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
130	84 1/2	78	71 1/2	65	58 1/2	52	45 1/2	39	32 1/2	26
125	81 1/2	75	69	62 1/2	56 1/2	50	44	37 1/2	31 1/2	25
120	78	72	66	60	54	48	42	36	30	24
115	75	69	63 1/2	57 1/2	52	46	40 1/2	34 1/2	29	23
110	71 1/2	66	60 1/2	55	49 1/2	44	38 1/2	33	27 1/2	22
105	68 1/2	63	58	52 1/2	47 1/2	42	37	31 1/2	26 1/2	21
100	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25	20
95	62	57	52 1/2	47 1/2	43	38	33 1/2	28 1/2	24	19
90	58 1/2	54	49 1/2	45	40 1/2	36	31 1/2	27	22 1/2	18
85	55 1/2	51	47	42 1/2	38 1/2	34	30	25 1/2	21 1/2	17
80	52	48	44	40	36	32	28	24	20	16
75	49	45	41 1/2	37 1/2	34	30	26 1/2	22 1/2	19	15
70	45 1/2	42	38 1/2	35	31 1/2	28	24 1/2	21	17 1/2	14
65	42 1/2	39	36	32 1/2	29 1/2	26	23	19 1/2	16 1/2	13
60	39	36	33	30	27	24	21	18	15	12
55	36	33	30 1/2	27 1/2	25	22	19 1/2	16 1/2	14	11
50	32 1/2	30	27 1/2	25	22 1/2	20	17 1/2	15 1/2	12 1/2	10
45	29 1/2	27	25	22 1/2	20 1/2	18	16	13 1/2	11 1/2	9

If, for example, a scoured-basis market price of 75 cents is quoted for a wool that shrinks 50 per cent, start at the 75-cent line in the column headed "Scoured-basis price" and follow to the right until the column headed by "50" is reached. At this point will be found 37 1/2 cents, which is the grease-basis price for a greasy wool shrinking 50 per cent and worth 75 cents, scoured basis.

The local grease price is estimated by deducting from the estimated Boston grease-basis price all the costs of

marketing. These costs include carriage, freight, storage, insurance, selling commissions, and grading, if the wool cannot be sold to advantage in original bags. Freight rates can be obtained from local offices of transportation companies. Freight rates to Boston from the principal wool-producing areas of the United States range from around \$1 to about \$2.70 per hundred pounds. Selling commissions vary somewhat, but the usual rate for selling on commission in Boston is \$2 per hundred pounds, or 2 cents per pound for wools in original bags. This charge of \$2 per hundred pounds includes 4-months' storage. If wool is to be graded, there is an additional charge of about one-half cent per pound. All charges are added and the total is deducted from the Boston grease-basis price to arrive at the local grease-basis price.

In order that a grower may accurately compute the value of a clip of wool in the grease it is necessary that he know (1) the shrinkage of his wool, (2) its market classification and grade, (3) the scoured-basis market price for wool of such a market classification and grade, and (4) the cost of marketing. Current quotations for the various market classes and grades of domestic wool sold on the Boston market are released weekly, on a scoured basis, in a mimeographed report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Technique in Wool Shrinkage Determinations

WITH the increasing interest in the determination of wool shrinkages from small samples, the question of methods and equipment have come to the front, particularly in agricultural colleges and other agencies doing experimental work along this line.

The California Agricultural Experiment Station has made a special study of the technique in shrinkage determinations over a long period of time and in the January, 1938, issue of *Hilgardia*, published by the University of California, J. F. Wilson brings the results of this study down to date.

The first article in the publication referred to is "The Determination of Yield and Shrinkage of Wool by Scouring Small Samples." It describes in detail and gives accurate drawings of the new fleece opener developed at the California Station to "mix fleeces into a homogeneous mass from which small samples accurately representing the lot can be easily drawn." This new equipment replaces the former opener, also devised at the California Station, and previously used there and at other institutions, and while retaining many advantages of the old machine has overcome many of its less meritorious features.

The new machine can be built at a cost not to exceed \$200, exclusive of the motor; parts can be obtained in small cities, and any cabinet maker, with some aid from a blacksmith and a sheet metal worker, should be able to construct it, Mr. Wilson states.

Following the description of the fleece opener, Mr. Wilson goes into the technique of scouring the samples, giving formulas and detail on the different steps in the process. Tests in three types of scouring are also discussed: the soap-and-soda method of scouring by hand, using an electric washer, and dry cleaning. Excellent results were obtained from the first method and its use is indicated, the bulletin states, where the highest degree of accuracy is desired. However, "scouring with an electric washer or dry cleaning are easier and no more expensive than the

hand method, and since the figures obtained from their use are not wholly out of line with the hand-scouring, they may be used under certain circumstances."

The second article in the January, 1938, issue of *Hilgardia*, covers single and multiple-fiber tests for determination of comparative breaking loads of wool fibers. It is authored by J. F. Wilson and E. B. Roessler. These tests are chiefly of interest to the wool technologist on account of the relationship between the measurement of the strength of the wool fiber and the measurement of the effect on wool of disease, nutrition, etc. To obtain a sufficiently accurate measurement of the strength of a wool fiber in the past has involved the measurement of several hundred individual fibers; in this article it is shown that the use of multiple fibers obtained by twisting individual fibers into yarn has such an "advantage over single-fiber tests for breaking-load determinations that its substitution is indicated."

Corriedale Breeders' Meeting

THE National Corriedale Sheep Association held its annual meeting in the Record Building, Chicago, on Wednesday evening, November 30. In the absence of President R. C. Hoyt, the meeting was opened at 7:30 by J. Frederick Palmer, vice president. Breeders were present from Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, New York and Indiana. Mr. Schott of the U. S. Department of Agriculture also honored us with his presence.

The Secretary's report of the previous meeting was read and accepted for file, as was also the Treasurer's report, which showed a substantial increase over the year previous.

Several matters were discussed, among them a uniform length of fleece which all breeders of Corriedales should observe in the showing. However, these were left for further discussion before being acted upon.

Motion was made that the Secretary send a letter of endorsement to the Fed-

eral Trade Commission on the truth-in-fabrics regulations, which motion was seconded and carried. J. F. Walker further recommended that each of the individual breeders back this up with a personal letter to the Federal Trade Commission, stating that we are thoroughly in accord with these rules and want to see them put into effect.

A vote of thanks was extended to J. Frederick Palmer for having secured a class last year for Corriedales at the Wisconsin State Fair, to Dr. C. J. Stover for having secured a class this year at Indiana and to Ray Swift in New York.

The following officers were reelected for the ensuing year: R. C. Hoyt of Birds Landing, California, as president; J. Frederick Palmer of Waukesha, Wisconsin, as vice president and Mrs. F. J. Moline as secretary-treasurer. Malcolm Moncreiffe of Big Horn, Wyoming, J. F. Walker of Gambier, Ohio, C. H. Leabhart of Tipton, Iowa, Dr. C. J. Stover of Muncie, Indiana, and Ray Swift of Clarence Center, New York, were elected to serve on the Board of Directors with the President and Vice President for the year 1939.

No further business coming before the meeting a motion was made for adjournment, which was carried, the next meeting to be held in 1939 during International week.

F. J. Moline, Secretary

Marshall Bros.' Winnings At International

IN THE condensed report of awards at the International in the December issue of the *Wool Grower*, only one class in the carload division was included, that for range lambs weighing 90 pounds and over. Marshall Bros. Sheep Company, which operates the West Chicago Feed Yards, was shown as winning fourth place in that class. In addition to that they took first prizes on range lambs under 90 pounds and on grade lambs from range ewes.

Marshall Bros. have exhibited lambs at the International every year since 1930 and have now won seven first prizes and three second prizes in nine years.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

Chapter Activities

IDAHO

Blackfoot

COMMEMORATING the second anniversary of the B. W. W. A., twenty-six members met at the country home of Mrs. Mildred Montague, December 23, with Mrs. Ethel Parker as cohostess.

Mrs. Ada Katesanes, president, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

"Bingo" was the diversion of the afternoon with novelty Christmas candies offered as prizes. At four o'clock each member was presented with a wool grower's pin by the club. This presentation was made by the President. Presents were then distributed from the Christmas tree and stockings filled with candies and nuts were given to all present. Miniature Christmas trees were used as favors and the Christmas colors were carried throughout the tasty luncheon served by the hostesses, assisted by Mesdames Hattie Berryman, Lizzie Felt, and Florence Moody.

Mrs. Orten Andrus of Firth was taken into the club as a new member.

Mrs. Mildred Montague, Secretary

Oneida County

THE past year has been a most successful one for the Oneida Chapter of the Idaho Auxiliary. Following is a brief resume of the meetings since we organized in March of 1938.

With our State President, Mrs. T. J. Edwards, of Idaho Falls, as special guest, the Oneida County Lady Wool Growers Club was formed on March 28, 1938. The second Monday of each month was designated as the regular meeting day and the following officers were chosen for the coming year: Mrs. Guy Servoss, president; Mrs. J. H. Dredge, vice president; Mrs. G. C. Tovey, secretary; Miss LaVerne Ward, chaplain; Mrs. Jedd Jones, courtesy; Mrs. D. L. Tovey, publicity; Mrs. H. E. Berg, program; Mrs. Lawrence

Jones, finance; Mrs. James T. Jones and Mrs. Barney T. Jones, work and business.

On April 19 we met at the home of Mrs. Guy Servoss, with Mrs. James T. Jones and Mrs. Thomas Chivers as cohostesses. Plans for the coming year were discussed, after which a luncheon was served to the members.

May 9, we met at the home of Mrs. J. H. Dredge, with Mrs. J. N. Ward and Mrs. J. W. Ward as joint hostesses.

An enjoyable program of music and a talk on the production of wool from the beginning to the finished product, followed by dainty refreshments, was appreciated by all present.

Mrs. LaVern Ward was hostess for the June meeting of the auxiliary, with Mrs. D. L. Tovey and Mrs. H. E. Berg as assisting hostesses. The program consisted of a piano solo by Alice Marie Jones, community singing and a talk, "Idaho's Sheep Queen—Mrs. Emma Yearian" by Mrs. D. L. Tovey. The hostesses served a delicious luncheon at the close of the business session.

On July 11 the club entertained the children and grandchildren of the members at a canyon party in beautiful Power House Canyon. Forty-one were present to enjoy the games and picnic.

On August 8 we met at the home of Mrs. Jedd Jones at which time a report was given by Mrs. Edell on "This is My Story," by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Dainty refreshments were served.

Mrs. Lawrence Jones with Mrs. G. C. Tovey, assisting, entertained the auxiliary on September 12 at the home of Mrs. Jones. An interesting talk on the "Value of Lamb in the Diet" was given by Mrs. J. H. Dredge. Recipes for the use of lamb were given to the members. The members were then served a delicious luncheon.

Material for this department should be sent to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Emory C. Smith, 1636 Princeton Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The October meeting was held at the home of Mrs. H. E. Berg on the 10th. We had as honored guest our State President, Mrs. J. T. Edwards. The time was given to her for suggestions, of which she gave many useful and practical ones. Suggestions for the various uses of wool were also given. The group is engaged in making a wool quilt to be sold at a party which is being planned for the near future, at which the husbands of members will be entertained.

Mrs. D. L. Tovey, Secretary

OREGON

Heppner

AT THE Wool Growers Auxiliary luncheon at The Lucas Place, December 2, covers were laid for fifteen, fourteen members and one visitor, Miss Kathryn Farnsworth of The Dalles. Two new members, Mrs. Frank W. Turner and Mrs. Clyde Denney, were taken into the auxiliary and outstanding dues of members were paid.

Reports of the budget and membership committees were made, showing 50 paid-up members for 1938 and two new ones for 1939. The Christmas relief committee, composed of Mrs. E. R. Schaffer and Mrs. Philip W. Mahoney, was appointed.

Mrs. Harold Cohn, president of the Morrow County Auxiliary, was elected delegate to attend the state convention to be held in Pendleton, January 9 and 10. Mrs. Frank Wilkinson is alternate.

The auxiliary voted to give five dollars to the Heppner library.

The membership contest is still of paramount interest to the members.

The food sale will be held in February instead of in January as was planned at the last meeting.

The January meeting will be an after-Christmas party where "white elephant" Christmas gifts will be brought with a note saying why they are given away. These will be drawn for and the value is not to exceed twenty-five cents.

Josephine S. Mahoney, Cor. Sec.

Malheur County

THE Malheur County Wool Growers Auxiliary met for their regular monthly meeting in the Federated Club rooms, Ontario, Oregon, on November 8. Mrs. Fred Trenkle, president, presided at the meeting at which ten were present. An attractive luncheon was served by Hostesses Thomason and Trenkle.

It is planned to give a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Roy Smith on December 13, at which time gifts made of wool will be exchanged.

Mrs. Roy Smith, Cor. Secretary

WASHINGTON

Lower Yakima Valley Chapter

ON March 4, 1938, an organization meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Harlan Hill, past state and past national president, of Prosser, Washington, at which time a group of sheepmen's wives met and organized the Lower Yakima Valley Wool Grower's Auxiliary. Charter members of this organization and their offices are as follows: Mrs. Henry Anderson, president; Mrs. S. A. Fernandez, vice president; Mrs. Clell Lung, secretary; Mrs. C. F. Flower, treasurer; Mrs. W. H. Mercer, Mrs. Willis Mercer, Mrs. Milton Mercer, Mrs. Wm. Hans, Mrs. R. A. Jackson, Mrs. Arch Coats, Mrs. Charlie Fernandez, Mrs. Harlan Hill. To these twelve members has been added one associate-member, Mrs. Ervin Orcutt.

Since this organization meeting a regular monthly meeting has been held at the various ladies' homes. Each meeting is begun with a pot-luck luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

On December 6, 1938, a very interesting meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Clell Lung. The afternoon was spent in knitting and the making of all-wool toys to be turned in at the state convention to be held in Yakima, January 12, 13, 1939, and sold. This toy-making is a state-wide feature.

We have adopted "Eat Lamb and Wear Wool" as our motto. Brown, cream and green are our colors and our auxiliary pin is made of wool yarn in these colors.

Our chief venture thus far has been

learning to knit. Very few of us knew how to knit at first but now several of the members are knitting suits.

We plan to entertain our families on January 7, 1939, at a 6:30 dinner and card party.

Mrs. Clell Lung, Secretary

UTAH

Ashley Chapter

THE November meeting of the Ashley Chapter to the Utah Wool Growers Auxiliary was held in the Directors' Room, Uintah State Bank, Vernal, Utah. A business meeting was held and plans laid for "Wool Promotion Week." It was decided to ask the Uintah High School to have the English Department conduct an essay contest, wherein the girl student and the boy student writing the best essay on wool would each receive a prize of five dollars in woolen goods from local stores, one prize coming from the wool growers' association and one from the Ladies Auxiliary.

Over two hundred students took part in the contest, the English teacher selecting what in her judgment were the best 27 essays. These were then judged by H. Walter Woolley, assistant cashier at the Uintah State Bank, and prizes given to Miss Lucille Bodily and Voit Roper. Miss Farnes, the English instructor, commenting on the contest, stated it had really made the students "wool conscious." The motion picture on wool entitled "From Fleece to Fabric" was shown during the week at the high school, local stores and business houses were contacted and each had an advertisement in the weekly paper featuring wool and the sheep industry. The Ladies Guild held a fashion show and the Ladies Auxiliary entered three dresses furnished by the Utah Woolen Mills of Salt Lake City, one of the dresses being purchased by a spectator. The local paper ran a fine article on wool. The Ashley unit feels that its efforts in behalf of the week set aside for wool promotion were highly successful.

The December meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Adair Tysack, with Mrs. James Orr assisting. Current events on the sheep industry were

given by various members and a very interesting article was given by Mrs. Hugh W. Colton on the history of woolen and paisley shawls. Luncheon was served to fourteen members and one guest.

Lydia Tysack, Secretary

[We would like to add here that without a doubt the Ashley Chapter did create much enthusiasm through their essay contest relative to wool, as well as the other phases of their wool promotion project. The winning essays will be printed in this section later on and we urge you to watch these pages for them.—Correspondent's Note.]

Salt Lake City

THE regular meeting of the Salt Lake Chapter was held at the Civic Center at 2:00 o'clock, December 12, 1938, preceded by a very tasty luncheon.

A motion was passed that Mrs. Urien, our parliamentarian, give us a three-minute talk on club parliamentary procedure and then utilize two minutes for questions at each meeting.

Mrs. F. R. Marshall gave a report of the District Federation of Women's Clubs meeting, at which a heated discussion of the parking meters took place. This subject was also the outstanding topic in Mrs. Seeley's report of the Salt Lake Council meeting. Mrs. Emory Smith gave a report on the programs of the radio committee.

A motion was passed that a bottle be passed at each meeting until March for each member to donate a penny for the Penny Art Fund.

Another motion was passed that we accept a tree from the Parks and Playgrounds Committee and that we honor our President, Mrs. J. R. Eliason, by planting the tree at her home with suitable exercises on Arbor Day.

Radio Broadcasts of the Salt Lake Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers

THE Radio Committee gave three fifteen-minute programs over radio station KUTA during the month of December. A theme song has been

(Continued on page 40)

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Helen Tyler Belote, Secretary

Malcolm Moncreiffe, Pres. Big Horn, Wyo.

The Lamb Markets

(Continued from page 28)

Colorado did most of the topping, Harry Farr being an outstanding performer at \$9.40@9.50; one shipment averaging 105 pounds selling at \$9.10. Up to 100 pounds weight was not penalized, although killers claimed that heavies and handyweights were out of line; they took weight to fill out the meat rail, another indication of prompt clearance and a healthy dressed market. A few consignments of fall-shorn lambs sold at \$8@8.50, according to the wool carried. Under present conditions, shearing lacks incentive and is practiced solely to facilitate conditioning.

At 17@18 cents per pound wholesale at the Atlantic seaboard, product moves readily. This means the rank and file. The proportion of carcasses at 20@21 cents is insignificant, carrying killers' assurance of merit: the pick of their rails. Low-grade meat was scarce, creating a broad demand for lamb-weight yearlings and furnishing a reliable outlet for fed Texas yearlings of lamb weight, which go to local and eastern trade where economy is a factor. Toppy yearlings are invariably northern bred.

Feeders who overstayed would have taken thousands of warmed-up lambs had they been available; all they secured was the dregs of the run. Michigan, which went into the winter woefully short of its usual quota, was always in the market, with indifferent results. Had corn cost more they would have found easier picking, but between cheap gains and an open winter nearly everything wearing a fleece acquired sufficient condition to go on the meat rail. Western lambs that went into the corn belt even late in the season were closely picked by the turn of the year; January will clean them up as current prices exert a magnetic influence in attracting them to the butcher. Chicago's December run was but slightly less than that of the corresponding month of 1937, the bulk being of western origin; consequently the visible supply was depleted to that extent. A lower market would have held a considerable

percentage. Feeders pocketed profits with ostentatious enthusiasm.

By the end of January the bulk of the winter supply will be found west of the Missouri River. Official pronouncement does not jibe with trade opinion, which is definitely committed to a decidedly smaller February-to-May supply than during the same period of 1938. Every lamb in the winter supply is domiciled in feed lots. Indiana secured a few thousand in the Northwest during December, but lacks the ovine population of last winter, and a deficiency in Ohio, which made no attempt at replacement until late in the season, is admitted. Illinois never got in and Iowa is intent on getting out while getting is good. Interior packers have been working into local holdings in that state and are likely to be buying for numbers. Packington, expecting to hold prices down to present levels until early February, figures on higher cost later.

The season of excess poultry consumption is off the calendar. Cheap, abundant turkey gave competing foods keen competition over a six-week period and, as usual, selling force was behind it. Restaurants, market men and chain stores pushed turkey and pushed it hard. The writer left Chicago on a Denver-bound train one night during Christmas week to find a \$1.25 turkey dinner monopolizing the gastronomic exercises of 90 per cent of the passengers. Turkey raffle tickets circulated in unprecedented numbers. To aggravate the situation, pork wholesaled and retailed at the lowest prices in several years. As a "mutton man" in charge of distribution for one of the big packers remarked: "Selling 18-cent lamb in competition with 12-cent pork loins is a difficult job," but it sold nevertheless as not an ounce went to the rendering tank, none to the freezer and on every short run killers bought for numbers, an infallible sign that branch houses were getting action. Had poundage been cut 5 to 10 per cent early December prices would have been maintained.

That scant prospect of replacement during the balance of the winter exists is firmly rooted in trade opinion. A substantial advance could dislodge

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For history of the breed, list of members, rules, pedigree blanks, etc., address the Secretary.

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some of the western ewe lambs retained by breeders, but the great bulk of that holding is definitely out of commercial channels as any such appreciation will come too late to justify moving them. If the high spot of the winter does not develop in March, nearly everybody is wrong. Nothing statistical as to the number in sight is available, merely guesses on a percentage basis, but contention that November and December added sufficiently to the winter holding to atone for early deficiency, raising the total to last winter's volume, gets ridicule; only B.A.I. slaughter figures will settle the dispute. More yearlings are in feeders' hands, but the number is not sufficient to affect lamb prices, nor do they compete with lambs, the product having an outlet peculiarly its own, and based on price.

A higher hog market will eliminate cheap pork, helping lambs to that extent, and indications are not lacking that the winter low spot in that market has been uncovered, as the spring pig crop has been picked closer than is generally realized. As only a small percentage of the carcass goes into fresh meat channels, pork loins could easily be advanced to 17@18 cents wholesale, which would put them on a parity with lambs. No cheap beef is in sight, the fat cattle market having been sustained over the holiday period in gratifying manner despite free liquidation of warmed-up steers, to secure profits, that otherwise would figure in the 1939 beef supply.

New York's weekly consumption, estimated at 90,000 to 100,000 head, meaning the metropolitan district with a population of 8 million, is the stoutest prop under the market. Of this supply 60,000 are locally dressed, or koshered, forequarters going exclusively into that channel. Eliminate the

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kosher outlet and the fat lamb market would collapse. Fat steers eligible to kosher trade are selling anywhere from \$11.50 to \$13.65 per hundred, and have never been so scarce, which should be a bullish argument on lambs. Either kosher trade must take substitute beef or buy a larger poundage of lamb; the latter alternative is probable.

Heavier fleeces as the season ages are certain; value is uncertain. Packers are less bullish on wool than 60 days back, successively reducing pelt credits from \$2.10 per hundred live weight of the animal to \$1.70 on January 1, thus putting a heavier load on the edible portion of the carcass.

What will happen when the 1939 lamb crop takes possession of the market is anybody's guess. Meanwhile Texas will throw its hat into the ring, no scarcity in that direction being apprehended. Under favorable physical conditions the 1939 lamb crop will be ample as east of the Mississippi farm flocks are multiplying and increasing. Iowa, Illinois and Indiana are bent on increasing production; the dairy industry debacle means increasing interest in ovine production. Under present conditions elsewhere than the urban milk sheds, a dairy herd is actually a liability, even extravagant government butter buying failing to exert a price stabilizing influence; a 10-cent market for cheese spells bankruptcy, especially as the outlet for that product is under close control. Kentucky, Tennessee and the hill country farther east went into the winter with an appreciable increase in breeding ewe population, with certainty of large lamb percentages.

During the ensuing 120 days the live lamb market will run into occasional squalls; breaks of 25@50 cents will occur intermittently following sharp upturns, as every hard spot will furnish incentive to load, but reversals will be prompt and emphatic.

J. E. Poole

Omaha

PREDICTIONS for a profitable winter market on fat lambs made a month and more ago have been borne out very well to date. The turn of the new year found prices remarkably close

to those of the end of November and, like the other branches of the livestock trade, a marked degree of stability characterized prices on both lambs and aged sheep all during December.

Marketings during most of the month followed an even, moderate course, which of course helped to limit fluctuations. Favorable weather again was a helpful factor, as in most of the middle western lamb feeding territory there were no bad storms. Lastly, cattle prices were strengthening, and while the relation between the beef and lamb markets may not be great, it does exist.

Still another influence that no doubt tended to support prices on all livestock and particularly on lambs was the hope, generated by reports of reduced numbers on feed, that prices will improve further as the season goes on. Perhaps they will, but on the other hand, this may turn out to be just another example of the old saying that a long crop often turns out short while a short crop turns out long.

Two straws point that way. One is the continued tendency of feeder purchases to exceed those of a year ago. Country feeders took quite a few more sheep and cattle out of Omaha last month than they did in December a year ago, and the figures on other markets undoubtedly will show a similar trend. At the same time, absence of selling pressure and confidence in the future no doubt are having some tendency to keep lambs on feed.

Finally, the favorable weather conditions prevailing this fall have brought about exceptionally good gains. Already packers have found it necessary to penalize some lambs for excessive weights and it will not be surprising if this tendency becomes more marked as the season goes along. As this column has pointed out before, most of the lambs put on feed this year carried more weight and flesh into the feed lot than usual this season, and that, plus favorable weather and exceptionally good quality feed, will tend to boost poundage at marketing time.

However, if feeders do guard against over-feeding and making lambs too heavy, there appears to be no reason why the present satisfactory market conditions should not continue through



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the winter and into the spring. Prices of the rank and file of beef cattle are confidently expected to remain substantially higher than a year ago for several months to come and it is pretty generally agreed that there are none too many lambs if they are marketed in an orderly fashion.

As to price, 9 cents has been the favorite pivotal point for good fed lambs here at Omaha. Any material advance above that level appears to check itself, regardless of receipts, while dips below the magic \$9 mark have been followed by immediate recovery.

This much, however, appears certain. Granting that the winter market does continue as profitable for feeders as it is expected to do, range men will find an even more satisfactory demand for the lambs they have to sell in 1939 than they did this past year. In the fall of 1938, lamb finishers had a hard time getting the losses they took a year ago out of their heads and, until late in the season at least, their buying was restrained somewhat by that fact. Next summer and fall, it should be a different story, particularly if crops over the feeding areas turn out at all well. All in all, 1939 is opening with all the earmarks of being a good year for the sheep business.

Byron Demorest

Livestock Market News Reports to Include Only Salable Supply

BEGINNING January 2, livestock market news reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will include only "salable supplies" in their livestock receipt data for the public stockyard markets. Livestock shipments direct to packers and through-billed shipments unloaded exclusively for feed, water, rest or inspection will not be included.

In reporting market receipts in the past, the inclusion of direct shipments to packers, and of unloads of in-transit livestock that did not enter into the day's market, has tended to be confusing. The confusion has arisen because of the lack of uniformity in the man-



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ner of handling such shipments at the different markets. Some markets have heretofore based receipt data on all stockyard unloads, including directs and through-billed consignments without sale privilege, while others have excluded either directs, throughs, or both. At several of the major market centers all or varying percentages of the direct shipments are unloaded at receivers' plants and only that portion of such consignments as have been received at the public stockyards have figured in the supply data.

The new system of reporting will eliminate the direct and in-transit livestock shipments, except that in-transit livestock unloaded at public markets will be included if the privilege of sale is extended to them.

Under the new plan, daily receipt data for the various markets will be placed on an entirely uniform basis with respect to both the proportion of total unloads that figure in the receipts and the observance of a uniform hour for the counting of total receipts for the day. All daily livestock receipt data released will be determined on the basis of salable supplies, including advance estimates of receipts for the following day, the early morning estimates of receipts for the current day, and the daily totals of actual receipts.

The new basis for compiling and releasing daily receipt data will be made effective at all public markets affiliated with the American Stockyards Association, the membership of which includes all of the major and a large number of the smaller public stockyards.

The bureau maintains livestock market reporting offices at Baltimore; Boston (Brighton Market); Buffalo; Casper, Wyoming; Chicago; Cincinnati; Denver; Des Moines; Fort Worth; Houston; Indianapolis; Kansas City; Los Angeles; Louisville; Montgomery; Nashville; National Stock Yards, Illinois; New York (Jersey City Market); North Portland, Oregon; Ogden (including North Salt Lake); Oklahoma City; Omaha; Pittsburgh; San Antonio; San Francisco; Sioux City; St. Joseph; South St. Paul. Some of these offices are operated in cooperation with state agencies.

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USE U & I DRIED BEET PULP

With the Women's Auxiliaries

(Continued from page 33)

adopted for use at the beginning and end of each program. A transcription of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" is used for this theme song.

On December 1 the program was devoted to a four-minute talk on planning meals around the meat course, preferably lamb, and giving the correct ways of roasting, broiling, and stewing lamb; and a six-minute talk on shopping suggestions regarding wool and fashion news. These talks were interspersed with an original composition, "Medley of Christmas Carols in Symphony Form," as transcribed by Marguerite Devine Graves, concert pianist formerly with the National Broadcasting System, Radio City, New York.

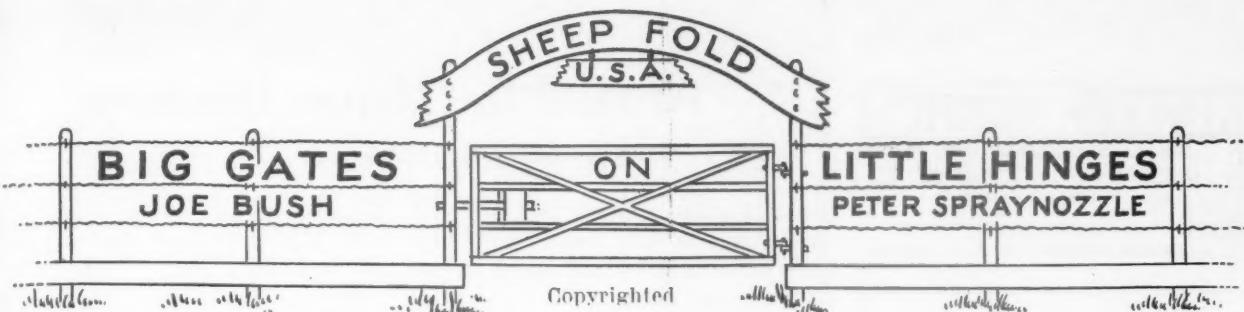
On December 15 the program centered around an original skit which depicted four women playing bridge, meanwhile discussing pertinent facts regarding wool and making suggestions for buying Christmas gifts of wool. The music for this program was furnished by Mrs. Edna Evans Johnson. The favorite lamb recipe was given by Mrs. W. S. Hatch, one of the members, on how to prepare "Jellied Lamb Stew."

The December 29 program featured a five-minute talk entitled "Wool, the Versatile," and a favorite lamb recipe "Lamb a la King." The music was two popular songs pleasingly rendered by Mr. Joseph Wood of Woods Cross, Utah.

Big Game and Haystacks

I AM deeply interested in our grazing facilities, both on private and public lands. I note with much concern the great incentive to increase large game privileges. It seems to have reached a point where devotees of the sport of big game hunting rejoice in the fact that we can hardly build corral fences high enough to protect our alfalfa stacks. The fencing of privately owned range to protect our feed is not at all practicable.

I would like to see a vigorous campaign taken up to correct this injustice. Manti, Utah Geo. B. Cox



WELL, here we are, well on into the first month of the New Year of 1939. Some came into the New Year with a New Year's eve "hangover," some with a 1938 "holdover" of wool and lambs that we would like to have "put over" in 1938, but with that never-say-die optimism that spells America, we are still bubbling over vid that spirit that carries a Happy New Year's wish for you und yours.

To make 1939 a Happy New Year for the American people and for the people of the world, is going to take something more than just those little words: Happy New Year. It's going to take self-denial by those who have no apparent reason to deny themselves anything. It's not only that we have that we may live, but to share what we have that we may help others to live—that would make 1939 a truly Happy New Year, both for those who give and those who receive.

Joe Bush says that at birth every child receives a checkbook wherein checks may be written und drawn on a trust fund in the Bank of Eternity for hours, days, weeks, months, years of time. None know the amount of their credit there, yet humanity drives its car and spends its time as if at any time it could make a deposit that would take care of an overdraft on the Bank of Eternity.

And using his time drawn from the Bank of Eternity, man builds for himself a First National account with the nest egg of a dollar und adds thereto until the total reaches the hundreds, thousands, maybe even a million or more, invests them in securities, tucks them away under lock und key und if needs ride hard enough, draws them out, so the "tally" will conform to that little worry men call a "budget."

Und then like Joe Bush says—Bingo—we draw a little check on our time account on the Bank of Eternity. It may be only for a moment, a day, an hour—but it bounces back marked NSF. Und all our funds in the First National account won't make good that "overdraft" on the Bank of Eternity, not even for the split part of a second of time.

Man's First National account is the reward for work well done, the diploma from the American University of Success, und when used by man, the builder, with a full knowledge of the value of his credit in the Bank of Eternity, will gather for him those things that will keep green his memory and write his name with those who have used their accounts in the First National und the Bank of Eternity to lift the cross and lighten the burdens of humanity.

Great lives are lived; great things are done; great poems are written and set to music that will never die,

by men und women who know the value of their credit in the Bank of Eternity. The Man of Galilee had but a small time account in the Bank of Eternity, none at all in the First National, yet today, 1938 years after his time account in the Bank of Eternity was closed, nations and men and women by the million, in all walks of life, ask for his endorsement when they feel that their account in the Bank of Eternity is about to be closed.

Joe Bush says that if men were as much concerned with the time they draw from the Bank of Eternity as they are with what they draw from the First National; if men would draw a little closer to Him who said "That which ye have done to the least of these, that also have ye done unto me" and ask Him to endorse what we are about to do—it might be that we could go a long way toward bringing by "our works" the happiness we "wish" each other as we stand on the threshhold of 1939.

Some few there are who find themselves, as their account in the Book of Eternity is about to be closed, with a swollen First National account but no credit for deeds of kindness, helpfulness, charity, love, by which men write their name in the hearts of generations yet unborn; deeds that man can show the Grand Exalted Ruler of the universe that His faith in man is justified, not by how good he was, but by the good he has done.

When the Prophet Nehemiah was asked how he, without a First National account, without accepting gratuities from the governors who sat over the land, was able to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and hang the gates thereof in 52 days, he said (I quote the book), "First the people had a mind to work, second, beginning with the horse gate each man hung the gate and built the wall nearest him."

Joe Bush says looks like to him that if agriculture, industry, labor, capital, will try working with the President, hang the gates und build the walls nearest to each, without waiting for government gratuities, without waiting to join something with a big name, a big head, with little ideas—depend more on self und less on busybody commissions, committees und bureaus—it may be that the United States of America will come to Christmas 1939 und step over into 1940 leading the world in peace, happiness und contentment.

So, I, Peter, would like to join you, — you in your small corner, I in mine—und work vid you as well as wish for you a Happy New Year.

— Peter Spraynozzle.

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Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 17)

tion will make a profit this year; if any, it will be very small. Our overhead is too high for the prices we get for wool and lambs.

D. C. Martin

Heppner
(Morrow County)

The winter has been very open here, with no feeding up to date (January 3). The rainfall is below normal but the range is in fair condition. Alfalfa hay is \$8 a ton in the stack.

Yearling fine-wooled ewes have been selling from \$7 to \$7.50 a head and crossbreds have been going at the latter figure.

Mahoney & Ball

CALIFORNIA

Exceptionally warm weather prevailed, ranging from two to ten degrees above normal over wide areas much of the time. Rains were unusually heavy for brief periods of time over limited sections of the state, first over the northern and later over the southern coastal country. Pasturage and all cultivated crops are thus making excellent progress, and livestock are in thriving condition in nearly all sections.

Cedarville
(Modoc County)

Feed conditions during December have been good, but for the winter

range the present season is a little dry; there is a shortage of snow on the desert (December 26).

The only lambs on feed close to here are in the Klamath Falls country and there is only about a third of last year's number there. Breeding was also done on a smaller scale this season, due to the drop in markets and the high cost of running sheep now. Fewer ewe lambs were held over for stock ewes in comparison with last year. Seven dollars has been paid for yearling fine-wooled ewes and crossbreds have gone at about the same figure.

Very little trapping for coyotes is done here and hence they are increasing; we should have some federal help.

I think the sheepmen will do well if they break even on 1938 operations; not many made a profit. Unless we get around 25 cents a pound for wool and 8 cents, ranch price, for fat lambs, we can hardly keep the business going.

Martin Lartirigoyen

NEVADA

Temperatures were above normal steadily from the beginning to the end of the month, save in a few localities and for brief periods of time of little moment to livestock interests. Light to moderate precipitation occurred in many sections during the first two weeks, and again toward the close of the month, leaving ample moisture for most of the range sheep and cattle. The ground was generally bare, however, at the close of the month.

UTAH

December was unusually warm, from beginning to end, though with a few comparatively cold periods as shown by minimum temperatures. Precipitation has been ample for livestock uses, and stormy weather early in the month, and again late in the month, necessitated the feeding of domestic livestock. Local pasturage was also covered by snow in places. Range forage and available pasturage on farms is still fair and livestock are mostly good.

COLORADO

Temperatures averaged near or somewhat above normal most of the month, being rather favorable for livestock in all sections. Snows were light to moderate, allowing comparatively wide ranging of sheep on winter ranges, though deeper snows at the higher elevations necessitated increased feeding. Livestock, as a rule, have held up in good shape for the season.

NEW MEXICO

Temperatures averaged near normal values, though the first week was cold and the second rather warm; the rest of the month brought seasonal temperatures. Droughty conditions that have persisted for some months were relieved, at different times, in different parts of the state; but much of the state still needs moisture for livestock, and the best range utilization. However, most livestock are holding up comparatively well.

*Albuquerque
(Bernalillo County)*

The weather up to date has been very good. We had a couple of cold snaps but it warmed up right afterwards. I believe the sheep are bucking very well (December 23). There are not as many ewes in New Mexico as a year ago, as a lot of breeding ewes have been shipped out. Yearling fine-wooled ewes have been moving at \$6 to \$6.50 a head.

I believe only a very small percentage of the lamb operators made any money running sheep this year; a good number of them have just broken even and some will show a loss.

Because prices for furs have been low, coyotes have not been trapped out as well as in previous years.

Frank Bond & Son, Inc.

*Questa
(Taos County)*

From November 1st to the 15th we had a little snow and cold weather, but from then up to the present (December 11), it has been nice and warm. Sheep are doing well, but feed is short. What rain we had was too late to do any good for winter feed, and we need snow badly now.

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BOSTON, MASS.

The number of ewe lambs retained for breeding purposes was about the same as in 1937 and the number of breeding ewes is just about as a year ago. Prices on fine-wooled yearlings have ranged from \$6 to \$7.50.

There will be no profit in this year's operations for us.

There are a lot of coyotes around here and I am in favor of uniform state bounty laws as a means of keeping them down.

C. A. Cisneros

Aztec
(San Juan County)

There is ample moisture here (December 29) and weather and feed conditions are very good. About the usual number of ewe lambs were retained this fall for replacements, and the size of the breeding bands remains about as in 1937. No lamb feeding is done here. There will be very little profit, if any, shown on this year's business for the sheepmen of this district.

Since the price of pelts has been so low, there hasn't been much incentive for the private hunters to go after coyotes, so they have increased during recent years.

John A. Pierce

Carlsbad
(Eddy County)

Weather and feed conditions have been good. There is plenty of grass and water, but we are not sure about the strength in the grass as it is quite white. We do not have any stacked hay here, but baled hay is costing \$10 a ton in barns. Fewer lambs are being fed this year.

There is very slight change, if any, in the number of ewes bred this season when compared to last, and about the same number of ewe lambs were kept over this fall for stock ewes as in 1937. No yearling ewes have been sold here.

We have lots of coyotes and I think we should have a bounty established on them. Our losses from coyotes, plus cheap wool and lambs, have cut out all profits in 1938 for the sheepmen of this section.

W. C. Bates

WESTERN TEXAS

The weather has been abnormally warm over this region, excepting for brief cold spells in the last half. Only traces of moisture occurred, after the middle of the month, and light showers toward the close, which were quite inadequate for range and livestock needs. Pasturage and forage are only fair, and livestock water is scarce generally. Livestock are in only fair to good shape.

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New Braunfeld
(Comal County)

Some sections around here have not had any rain since June and the range is very bad, which will make a lot of feeding necessary during the winter. No alfalfa hay is raised here and that shipped in costs us \$25 a ton.

Fewer ewes were bred this fall on account of the drought and likewise a smaller number of ewe lambs were held for replacements than a year ago. Four dollars a head is the recent price of yearling ewes.

There will be small profit for sheepmen in 1938 on account of the feeding required during the winter.

The work of the Biological Survey here is keeping coyote numbers down.

Hilmer Doehe

ARIZONA

Moderate or nearly normal temperatures prevailed, except for a warm spell in the second week. The month was dry, excepting during the last week, and part of the third week, which brought beneficial showers or snows to much of the state. Livestock and range conditions have been appreciably improved as a consequence, though more rain is needed nearly everywhere.

National Suffolk Meeting

THE National Suffolk Sheep Breeders Association held its annual meeting in Chicago during International Week, on Tuesday evening, November 29, at 7:30 p.m.

The following officers were re-elected: Percy Hampton of New Hampshire as president, C. A. Williams of Michigan as vice president and Mrs. F. J. Moline as secretary-treasurer. The directors elected for 1939 were: Bruce Barnard of New Mexico, Henry Wiemers of Nebraska, Ivan Bursley of Michigan, Mrs. Nancy F. Campbell of California, and L. M. VanVleet of New York, who with the President and Vice President, constitute the Board of Directors.

F. J. Moline, Secretary